

Zionist Troops Shoot Dead Gaza Fisherman

GAZA (Dispatches) -- Naval forces of the occupying regime of Israel on Sunday opened fire on a Palestinian fishing boat off the coast of the besieged Gaza Strip, killing a fisherman and injuring two others.

Palestinian sources said Zionist forces targeted the boat near the shores of Ashkelon, 13 kilometers north of the Gaza fence, injuring the three Palestinians on board. One of the fishermen later succumbed to his gunshot wounds, while Zionist troops abducted the two others and transferred them to an unknown location for interrogation.

Kayhan International



Cult Riot in Tehran Crossed Redlines: Larijani

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani on Sunday praised police restraint in handling a recent unrest in the capital, but warned that the establishment would never ignore any acts threatening public security.

Larijani said the "misconduct" in northern Tehran last week in which five members of security forces were martyred and public property was damaged amounted to crossing the redlines. "Creating problems for people's security is the redline of officials and the Islamic Republic," he said.

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Viewpoint
By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer
US' Manipulation of UN as Syria All Set to Weed out Terrorists

Structure Purported as Mosque Raises Questions

Iranian Judoka Molaei Wins Gold in Düsseldorf Grand Slam 2018

In Counter-Terrorism Campaign Syrian Army Retakes Eastern Ghouta Areas

Iran's Top General: Terrorist Supporters Seek to Hamper Ghouta Clean-Up

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran said on Sunday Syrian forces would press ahead with attacks on a terrorist-held enclave near the Syrian capital, as ground fighting raged on there and government troops made fresh gains against Takfiri militants.

Iran's Chief of Staff General Muhammad Baqeri, however, reiterated that Tehran and Damascus would respect a UN resolution demanding a 30-day truce while allowing Syria to push ahead with its fight against Takfiri terrorists.

Baqeri said the architects of the ceasefire had it passed at the UN in order to forestall the Syrian army's eradication of terrorists in the Damascus suburbs.

"This time again, like in the past, those who do not want security and peace in Syria took up the banner of ceasefire in order to support terrorists after they saw the Syrian army and government were cleansing the Damascus suburbs," he said.

Nevertheless, "we will adhere to the ceasefire resolution; Syria will also adhere," Baqeri said.

The general stated that parts of the suburbs of Damascus, which are held by the terrorists, are not covered by the ceasefire and clean-up operations will continue there.

Amendments were made to the draft resolution to exclude Daesh, Al-Qaeda and Al-Nusra Front along with "individuals, groups, undertakings and entities" associated with the terrorist groups from the ceasefire.

Baqeri said, "With the joint work which was done by Syria and its friends as well as the opponents of terrorists and those fighting them, including Iran and Russia, the resolution was moderated a bit in order to continue the fight on known terrorists such as Nusra Front."

"The West and supporters of the terrorists insisted that this ceasefire be put in place," the top Iranian general said.

"This time again, like in the past, those who do not want security and peace in Syria took up the banner of ceasefire in order to

support terrorists after they saw the Syrian army and government were cleansing the Damascus suburbs," Baqeri said.

The Syrian army is trying to drive out terrorists from Eastern Ghouta which has become a festering ground for foreign-backed terrorist groups to launch mortar attacks on the Syrian capital.

"The Syrian army seeks to clear the land of terrorists in order to provide security for the people in Damascus, but so far 1,200 mortar shells have been fired at the city, disrupting people's security and peace," Baqeri said.

The UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution on Saturday, demanding a 30-day ceasefire across Syria to allow for humanitarian aid deliveries and medical evacuations.

"Certain areas were specified to allow the ordinary people to continue their lives but this does not mean the terrorist front will remain there and in the next few months, the entire Syrian territory will be cleaned up," Baqeri said.

Several ceasefires have unraveled quickly during the seven-year war in Syria, where the army has gained the upper hand.

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Islamic Body Calls for Uprising After Al-Quds Decision: U.S. 'Declaration of War on Muslims'



U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv

DOHA (Dispatches) -- An international organization of Muslim scholars on Sunday called for a "public and official uprising" against a recent decision by the United States to move its embassy to occupied Jerusalem al-Quds in May.

"We call for a Palestinian, Arab and Islamic uprising against this American aggression," Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS) Ali al-Qaradaghi said in a statement

issued in this Qatari capital. "Al-Quds is the cause of the nation and abandoning it or changing its identity will be a disgrace."

Qaradaghi further described the U.S. decision to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem al-Quds as a "declaration of war on Muslims and a step to legitimize an illegitimate occupation".

On Saturday, the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement Hamas strongly condemned

the Washington's move, terming it as "provocative" for all Muslim and Arab nations.

"The measure to relocate the U.S. embassy concurrent with the 70th anniversary of Nakba Day (Day of Catastrophe), when hundreds of Palestinians were forcibly evicted from their homeland by Israeli regime forces back in 1948, is a naked aggression against the Palestinian nation," Hamas spokesman Abdullatif al-Qanou told Press TV from Gaza.

"It is also a provocative move against all Muslims and Arabs, and a clear attack against sites revered by both Muslims and Christians. Hamas believes that such a decision would fail to change the status quo of Al-Quds," he added.

Arab League chief Ahmed Abul Gheit said the U.S. administration's decision was a "new and dangerous chapter in the series of provocations and wrong decisions that have been ongoing since December".

The relocation of the embassy on the anniversary of the "Nakba" reveals the extent of the complete bias towards Israel and the lack of any reasonable reading of the nature of this conflict that has been ongoing in the region for over 70 years, he said in a statement.

Palestinian Authority spokesman Yousef al-Mahmoud described the decision to "offensive to the Palestinian and Arab nations, and a deliberate attempt to hurt their feelings."

"The move constitutes a clear and blatant violation of the United Nations resolutions, and

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Erdogan Vows to 'Break Arms' of U.S.-Backed Militants

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday reiterated Turkey's determination to fight against terrorist groups in Syria and said his country would return the region to its "real owners".

Speaking his AK party's provincial congress in the southern province of Gaziantep, Erdogan said Turkish troops would not give up the fight until they eradicated the terrorist presence in Syria.

Referring to the U.S. without naming it, Erdogan also said: "If you are allied with us, then do whatever alliance needs. If you are not, then tell us."

Relations between the two countries have been strained over U.S. support for Kurdish militants in northern Syria.

On Saturday, Erdogan issued one of his strongest warnings meant for the U.S., pledging to "break the arms and wings" of Washington-backed militants in Syria.

Turkey's patience boiled over when the U.S. announced last month to create a 30,000-strong force comprised of Kurdish militants, which would be deployed along the Turkish border.

Without mentioning the U.S., Erdogan said, "They want to sever us from our sis-

ters and brothers by forming a terror corridor along our borders. They do not hesitate to link arms with terrorist organizations."

"They are not aware of the fact that we will break the arms and wings of the structure they have been striving to form and destroy it completely," he added.

Turkey launched an operation in the Syrian city of Afrin on January 20 to eliminate the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara views as the Syrian branch of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

The U.S. views the YPG as an ally in Syria, where the militant group forms the backbone of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) which is being trained, equipped and protected by the Americans.

"We believe we will sooner or later bring down the terrorist organizations and those who are behind them," Erdogan told his ruling party members in the southern province of Kahramanmaraş.

"Those who see us as yesterday's Turkey, and treat us in this manner, have begun to gradually realize the truth," he said, in an apparent reference to Washington which

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Time to Put Insolent Zionist Leader in His Place

TEHRAN (IFP) -- Analysts believe Iran needs to show stronger reaction to Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu's threats against the Islamic Republic.

Although the Israeli regime, which is unable to even ensure its own security, seems unlikely to be able to harm Iran, the question remains why the Islamic Republic of Iran and its media do not react to Tel Aviv's repeated and flagrant threats against Tehran, and do not pressure the countries and international organizations which slam Iran for boosting its defense power into taking a position against Israeli threats.

Netanyahu made a controversial speech at the Munich security conference where he rehashed his threats and accusations against Iran. He said "Iran's growing aggression in the region" as well as its "belligerent ambitions" in Syria must be tackled.

"Israel will continue to prevent Iran from establishing a permanent military presence in Syria. Israel will continue to act to prevent Iran from establishing another terror base from which to threaten Israel," said Netanyahu.

He also brandished what he claimed was part of an Iranian drone shot down by Tel Aviv recently.

"It sent a drone into Israeli territory, violating Israel's sovereignty, threatening our security. We destroyed that drone and the control center that operated it from Syria," the occupying regime's prime minister claimed.

He then overtly threatened to take military action against Iran.

"And we will act, if necessary, not just against Iran's proxies that are attacking us, but against Iran itself ... we are absolutely resolute in our determination to stop and roll back the aggression of Iran's regime," Netanyahu said brazenly.

The Zionist premier did not stop there, and went further to blatantly support the recent unrest in Iran triggered by instigators. He tried to create the impression that the rioters were simply people who were protesting against Iran's economic and social situation.

"They want a different life. They want economic prosperity. They want peace," said Netanyahu.

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