

Report:

Zionist PM, UAE FM Secretly Met in New York in 2012

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – A new report has revealed that Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a clandestine meeting, mainly on Iran’s nuclear issue, in New York in 2012.

In a Friday report, Israeli daily Haaretz cited two informed Western diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as saying that bin Zayed agreed to the meeting after a long period during which Netanyahu sent messages to senior UAE officials through intermediaries.

The meeting was held at Netanyahu’s hotel room in the Loews Regency Hotel on the corner of East 61st Street and Park Avenue in New York during the United Nations General Assembly meeting on September 28, 2012.

According to the two diplomats, who received the reports of the meeting, Netanyahu and bin Zayed mainly discussed the Iranian nuclear issue. The UAE foreign minister also told Bibi that his country could not start relations with the Zionist regime unless there is progress in the so-called peace process with the Palestinians.

A day earlier, Netanyahu had delivered a speech at the UN General Assembly in which he repeated the allegations that Iran’s nuclear energy



*UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan (R) and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir attend a press conference in the Egyptian capital city of Cairo on July 5, 2017.*

activities has a military dimension and called for preventing Tehran from possessing nuclear know-how.

The UAE ambassador to Washington, Yousef al-Otaiba, accompanied bin Zayed to the meeting. The two Arab diplomats reportedly entered the hotel very discretely through an elevator at the underground parking lot.

The Zionist regime’s then-security advisor, Yaakov Amidror, and the prime minister’s military secretary, Major General Johanan Locker accompanied Netanyahu during the meeting.

The meeting was described as “friendly” during which bin Zayed expressed his appreciation for Netanyahu’s speech to the General

Assembly. The two sides also agreed on a wide range of issues regarding the Iranian nuclear issue.

Bin Zayed also expressed the UAE’s willingness to improve relations with the regime, but noted that the Arab monarchy cannot do that publicly, unless there is progress in Israel’s so-called peace process with the Palestinians.

Saudi Security System Overhauled Overnight

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia’s King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has issued a series of overnight decrees to overhaul the country’s security and intelligence apparatus, a move that could spark fresh concerns about the royal’s increased inclination to give more power to his son and the second to the throne Mohammed.

Saudi Arabia’s official news agency SPA said that King Salman had issued decrees for the creation of a new security agency, which will take almost all responsibilities on intelligence and counter-terrorism operations from the Interior

Ministry.

The SPA said the new unit, entitled the Presidency of State Security, will be headed by intelligence chief General Abdel Aziz bin Mohammed al-Houeiriny and will be overseen directly by King Salman. That would also elevate Houeiriny, a senior Interior Ministry official, and his deputy to the rank of ministers.

The report said the aim of the new shake-up in the security system was to enable the Saudi government “to face all security challenges with a high degree of flexibility and readiness and the ability to move quickly to face any emergency.”

However, the abrupt changes seem to be in line with Salman’s previous policies of centralizing authority to himself and his 32-year-old son, who ascended to the position of crown prince last month after the king removed Prince Mohammed bin Nayef.

Reports over the past days have suggested that Nayef, who was also Saudi Arabia’s interior minister, was stripped of his positions against his will and under pressure. Many say the relatively rapid pace of changes in Saudi Arabia’s higher ranks are designed by Salman, now 81, to accelerate Mohammad’s accession

to the throne. The crown prince is also Saudi Arabia’s defense minister, supervising a controversial military operation in Yemen.

The Thursday night shake-up in Saudi security system also elevated the head of Mohammed bin Salman’s personal office to the rank of minister.

As part of the decrees issued Thursday, king Salman also sacked the head of the royal guard, General Hamad al-Awhaly, and replaced him with General Suheil al-Mutiri. In an unrelated appointment, Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Qweiz became the head of the Saudi stock exchange.

Palestinians Urge ICC to Expedite Zionist Regime’s War Crime Probe

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinian attorneys and civil society groups have strongly urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to speed up inquiries into the Zionist regime’s abuses and war crimes against Palestinians.

Lawyers, representing 448 named victims mostly of the regime’s aggression against the Gaza Strip back in the summer of 2014, along with over 50 Palestinian trade unions and groups submitted a thick dossier to the ICC prosecutor’s office on Wednesday, showing “clearly that crimes within the jurisdiction of the court have been

committed.”

The 50-day Israeli military aggression against Gaza killed nearly 2,200 Palestinians, including 577 children. Over 11,100 others — including 3,374 children, 2,088 women and 410 elderly people — were also wounded in the war.

In February 2015, the Palestinian Authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, appointed a 45-member committee, chaired by Palestine Liberation Organization negotiator Saeb Erekat, to gather evidence of the regime’s abuse and war crimes against Palestinians.

In June 2015, the committee formally handed over to The Hague-based ICC several dossiers on the regime’s war on Gaza, the regime’s illegal settlement construction in the occupied territories, and the mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody.

However, almost no progress has been made in the process of examining the submitted documents and evidence by the ICC, which initially said it had launched a preliminary examination of the dossiers.

“For two years, Palestine is under preliminary examination,” said lawyer Gilles Devers in a press conference on

Wednesday. “In Gaza, we think two years is too long.” He added that the Israeli military operations in the 2014 Gaza war constituted war crimes and the “ICC was competent” to handle the case.

Devers said the ICC’s Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda had “an obligation” to turn the preliminary examination into a full probe.

Palestinian activists also told journalists that the long-awaited probe had stalled, calling on both the ICC and the PA to speed up the examining process.

‘Turkey Acting Like Former Communist East Germany’

ANKARA (Reuters) – German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble was quoted on Friday as comparing Turkey with the former communist East German state and saying Berlin might have to tell Germans travelling there that they did so at their own peril.

Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel told Germans on Thursday to exercise caution if travelling to Turkey and threatened steps that could hinder German investment after the NATO ally detained rights activists.

The arrests were part of a broader crackdown across Turkish society

since a failed coup last July.

“If Turkey does not stop playing this little game, we need to tell people: ‘You travel to Turkey at your own risk - we can’t guarantee you anything anymore,’” Schauble told the mass-circulation Bild newspaper.

Schauble compared Turkey to the former German Democratic Republic (GDR), East Germany: “Turkey now makes arbitrary arrests and no longer sticks to minimum consular standards. That reminds me of how it was in the GDR.”

In another development, Germany

has frozen all arms shipment to Turkey after Ankara arrested several human rights activists, including a German national.

The Bild newspaper reported on Friday that Germany was “freezing all planned and ongoing arms deliveries to Turkey.”

In the months after the July 2016 abortive coup in Turkey against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Germany had already blocked 11 separate arms shipments to Turkey, including handguns, ammunition, and weapons components.

The latest move came after a Turkish court on Tuesday issued arrest warrants for six human rights activists for allegedly aiding a “terror” group, among them German citizen Peter Steudtner.

The arrests further strained the already tarnished relations between the two NATO allies.

Relations between Turkey and Germany, which is home to three million ethnic Turks, have been badly strained over what Europeans describe as Turkey’s human rights violations.

Al-Quds ...

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Abdala Athem Salhab, the head of the Waqf counsel which administers the Noble Sanctury site, said: “We are all united and it’s our responsibility to protect the Aqsa Mosque - we won’t step back. We are asking Jordan to intervene to remove the doors, otherwise Israel is leading the area to religious war.”

Ahmed Tibi, a member of the Israeli parliament for the Arab List coalition, said it was the duty of Palestinians “to act now in order to protect the Aqsa from the Israeli forces. The Aqsa is not only a religion issue but also a political one.”

“Our response to Netanyahu is that we say no to the detectors and we will continue the protest. We hope the Islamic world and the international community take action to stop the violations.”

Muslim religious authorities say the metal detectors violate a delicate agreement on worship and security arrangements at the Jerusalem Al-Quds site and have urged Palestinians not to pass through. Prayers have been held near an entrance to the complex.

On Thursday night, Zionist forces wounded 22 Palestinians near Haram al-Sharif. According to the Red Crescent, two of those hurt are in serious condition after they were hit by a stun grenade.

Abdel-Kader said that the move to install metal detectors in the compound is a power play on Israel’s part.

“The metal detectors serve no security purpose whatsoever. Rather, their erection is a political play to pressure Palestinians into relinquishing control of Al-Aqsa,” he told Middle East Eye.

The negotiator added that all of the mosques in Al-Quds were closed on Friday in an effort to “direct Palestinians toward Al-Aqsa”, which drew thousands of people.

“With the religious and political sensitivities surrounding Al-Aqsa - as a universal sanctuary for Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims - Israel is taking a massive gamble and ultimately, crossing a red line. Undoubtedly, this may have dangerous consequences,” Abdel-Kader said.

Extremist members of Netanyahu’s hardline regime have publicly urged him to keep the devices in place at the flashpoint.

Still, Zionist media reports said security chiefs were divided over the issue amid concerns about wider Palestinian unrest in East Al-Quds and the West Bank.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged his Israeli counterpart Reuven Rivlin to swiftly remove the detectors “within the framework of freedom of religion and worship”.

“Given the importance that Haram al-Sharif carries for the whole Islamic world, the metal detectors put in place by Israel should be removed in the shortest possible time and an end put to the tension,” Erdogan said.

Russia ...

(Continued From Page One)

“By sending its most advanced guided-missile destroyers, China is expressing its sincerity to Russia and also sends a strong signal to other countries who plan to provoke us,” Li Jie, a Beijing-based navy expert, told the state-run Global Times.

The exercise will run the course of a week, and will feature anti-submarine, anti-aircraft, and anti-ship drills. The two sides will also practice anti-piracy as well as search and rescue operations. The joint flotilla is under the command of Russian Vice Admiral Alexander Fedotenkov and Chinese Vice-Admiral Tian Zhong.

China has been expanding its military reach by building up its naval forces and establishing its first overseas military base in the tiny east African nation of Djibouti this year.

The maneuvers in the Baltic Sea are being seen by Chinese experts as a show of force following joint drills by the United States and Beijing’s two key Asian rivals - India and Japan – in the Indian Ocean earlier this month.

Observers also say they are directed at NATO, and underscore China’s aspirations to be a major blue sea power

and a rival to U.S. naval might.

A statement from the United States European command said: “We are closely tracking Russian exercises with other participants, like China.”

The drills mark the first occasion that Chinese warships have ever carried out maneuvers in the strategically important Baltic Sea, and come after recent maneuvers in the Mediterranean.

Wei Dongxu, a Beijing based military expert, said that Britain would feel a loss of prestige over the Chinese drills, given its history as a maritime power.

“If you look back 30 years ago, there was no way that Britain could have imagined China could dispatch such advanced warships to carry out these activities,” he told The Telegraph.

“I expect China will have overwhelming advantage over Britain on naval strength.”

Some NATO allies believe the Russian exercise could number more than 100,000 troops and involve nuclear weapons training, the biggest such exercise since 2013.

U.S. Army Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, who heads U.S. Army forces in Europe, told Reuters that allies are also concerned that the maneuvers could be a “Trojan horse”, in which Russia would leave equipment behind.

Senior Negotiator ...

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The meeting was held ahead of the JCPOA Joint Commission on Friday which was attended by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as the P5+1.

Araqchi said Iran can resort to its own options if the mechanisms foreseen in the 2015 nuclear agreement fail to force other parties to live up to their end of the bargain.

Under the Trump administration, Washington has slapped several rounds of sanctions on Iran over its missile defense program.

Araqchi said it was up to the Commission to decide whether Washington was violating the deal as well as the proportions of such violations.

However, “if the arbitration mechanisms enshrined in the JCPOA do not give us the result, we have certain options before us,” he said.

“We have prepared ourselves for each and every scenario which may happen. There are mechanisms in the JCPOA and there are plans by Iran to protect its rights and its benefits,” he added.

Senior ...

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Back in April, 11 Iranian border guards lost their lives and three others sustained injuries in an attack near the border town of Mirjaveh. The Pakistan-based so-called Jaish ul-Adl terror group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The assailants fled back to Pakistan, prompting Iran to warn that it reserved the right to hit them where they were if Islamabad did not take action.