

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan accused the Zionist regime on Wednesday of inflicting damage on al-Quds’ Islamic character, in comments likely to further inflame regional tensions in a dispute over the Al-Aqsa mosque.

The dispute over security at the mosque compound – where the Zionist regime installed metal detectors at entry points after two police guards were shot dead this month – has touched off the bloodiest clashes between Zionists and Palestinians in years.

Whoever wants to be a leader should educate himself before educating others. Before preaching to others he should first practice himself. Whoever educates himself and improves his own morals is superior to the man who tries to teach and train others.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

**Palestinian Ambassador to UN:**

## Stop Zionist Regime’s Destructive Agenda



**Zionist troops hold a position as Palestinian worshippers gather to pray outside the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds on July 25, 2017.**

NEWYORK (Dispatches) – Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations Riyad Mansour has urged UN action against the Zionist regime’s “reckless and destructive agenda” across the occupied Palestinian lands.

The envoy told the Security Council that the al-Aqsa Mosque compound crisis was at a “tipping point,” urging the council members to help protect Palestinians and their holy sites from the occupying regime’s agenda.

“We are clearly at the tipping point,” Mansour said in his speech to the 15-member council, adding, “We must

therefore again warn against the dangers of such provocations and incitement, and fuelling of yet another cycle of violence which will surely have far-reaching consequences.”

Mansour also warned that “the stoking of a religious conflict is rapidly unfolding as Israel persists in its illegal actions in occupied East Jerusalem (al-Quds).”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Palestinian envoy also accused the regime of “aggressive behavior and provocative violation” of the historic status at the Muslim-administered al-

Aqsa Mosque compound.

Earlier on Tuesday, Zionist officials removed metal detectors that had been installed in and around al-Aqsa Mosque only to replace them with smart cameras at the holy site.

Palestinian officials have rejected the regime’s moves in the occupied East al-Quds, saying Tel Aviv should lift all restrictions on the compound.

### Historical Building Occupied

A large group of Zionist settlers have occupied a historical building in the

West Bank city of al-Khalil.

“Tens of Israelis entered a restricted building adjacent to the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron (al-Khalil) and security forces are currently on the spot,” said a Zionist military spokeswoman.

Local residents said that after forcefully entering the building, the settlers proceeded to raise an Israeli flag above it. They also noted the Zionist troops had arrived at the scene, but were not approaching the occupied building.

The occupied structure is next to Ibrahim Mosque, which is believed to be the burial site of various biblical figures such as Abraham.

In another development, dozens of Palestinians were injured as Zionist troops attacked protesters gathered outside the main entrance to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds.

The latest round of violence erupted on Tuesday as the troops resorted to force in order to disperse Palestinians demonstrating against the Tel Aviv regime’s restrictive measures at the compound.

According to local reports, several reporters and a young child were among those injured.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that Muslims from around the globe should help protecting the al-Aqsa mosque, which Zionist troops are “carelessly polluting” while “easily spilling blood.”

“From here I call upon all Muslims. Those who are able to should visit al-Aqsa... Those who cannot visit Al-Aqsa should send aid to our brothers there,” he said.

## As Fighting Intensifies Taliban Militants Kill 30 Afghan Soldiers



**Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers patrol the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, May 23, 2017.**

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (Reuters) – **Taliban militants killed 30 soldiers in an attack on an army base in the southern province of Kandahar, an army spokesman said on Wednesday, as heavy fighting raged across the country.**

Sediq Esa, spokesman for the 205th Corps in Kandahar, said the Taliban attacked an outpost in Khakriz district, to the north of Kandahar city, overnight, seizing the outpost and capturing weapons and vehicles.

“As a result of the fighting, 30 army personnel have been killed and others wounded,” he said.

However the 205th Corps commander, Gen. Imam Nazar, disputed the death toll and said reinforcements had arrived to beat back the insurgents.

The attack came after days of fierce fighting across Afghanistan and underlined the steadily deteriorating security in much of the country, which has also seen a string of high profile attacks in cities including the capital Kabul.

While the fighting has intensified, the United States, which is expected to send around another 4,000

troops to Afghanistan to bolster its existing training mission, is still to announce its new strategy for the region.

The Taliban, 16 years after being driven from power by a U.S.-led campaign, controls or contests at least 40 percent of the country, inflicting what U.S. advisers say are unsustainable casualties on Afghan security forces.

In the first 10 months of last year alone, some 6,785 soldiers and police were killed.

On Wednesday, the Taliban’s main spokesman said the insurgents were close to taking Waygal district in the eastern province of Nuristan, a day after they took Jani Kheil district in Paktika province, further to the south.

Over the past week, the insurgents have also taken districts in Ghor province in the west and Faryab in the north, although the defense ministry said government forces had retaken Kohistan district in Faryab.

Kunduz, the northern city which the Taliban captured briefly in 2015 and managed to enter in 2016, has also been under heavy pressure.

### Qatar:

## New Terror List ‘Disappointing Surprise’

DOHA (Dispatches) – **Qatar said on Wednesday a decision by four Arab states to add 18 groups and individuals allegedly linked to Doha to their “terrorist” lists was “a disappointing surprise” and that it was doing all it could to fight extremism.**

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain put another nine groups based in Yemen and Libya and nine people from several Arab countries on the blacklist, saying all were associated with Qatar.

“(The new list) comes as a disappointing surprise that the blockading countries are still pursuing this story as part of their smear campaign against Qatar,” Sheikh Saif Bin Ahmed al-Thani, director of the Persian Gulf kingdom’s Government Communications Office, said in a statement sent to Reuters.

“This latest list provides further evidence that the blockading countries are not committed to the fight against terrorism. As we have previously stated, all individuals with links to terrorism in Qatar have been prosecuted.”

Sheikh Saif said Qatar constantly reviews its anti-terror laws to “remain on the front foot in the fight against extremism and terror financing.”

Qatar’s foreign minister, who is on a visit to the U.S., says the “negative behavior” of the Saudi-led bloc of blockaders is undermining the mediation efforts aimed at settling the unprecedented diplomatic crisis gripping the Persian Gulf region.

In an interview with Qatari broadcaster Al Jazeera late Tuesday, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani reiterated that Doha was open to dialog on issues of concern, but that

its international affairs would not be up for negotiations.

“We see there is a negative behavior aimed at influencing the mediation, either through statements or through (media) leaks which they launch at critical moments,” the top diplomat added.

He said his visit to Washington is part of the U.S.-Kuwaiti efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the row between Doha and the Saudi-led bloc boycotting his country.

Separately, Qatari Minister of State for Defense Affairs Khalid bin Mohammad al-Attiyah announced that his country’s military is in the final stages of preparations for joint exercises with the U.S. and Turkish forces.

“The drills involving the three nations [Qatar, the U.S. and Turkey] will start

in the shortest time,” Attiyah told RT Arabic.

He also hailed the “special strategic relationship” between Qatar and Turkey, adding that the 2015 military agreement between the two states “can’t be annulled only because some countries decided to announce a blockade of Qatar.”

Touching on the demands from the Saudi-led bloc, Attiyah stressed that the removal of the siege on Qatar was a pre-requisite for dialogue between the conflicting sides.

If Saudi Arabia and its allies “stall lifting the blockade, Qatar will have to resort to means available to it internationally, should we find that this blockade violates international law. Therefore, Qatar will be forced to opt for international procedures to legally lift the blockade,” he pointed out.

Should the ECJ’s decision have kept Hamas off the list, it would have further angered the Zionist regime, which is already too critical of the EU’s condemnations of the regime’s settlement construction on the occupied Palestinian territories.

Beside its frequent attacks on Gaza, Tel Aviv has been keeping the territory under a crippling blockade, which is estimated to eventually render it uninhabitable by 2020.

surprise as one of its senior lawyers had said last September that Hamas should not have been included on the terror list as the EU’s original decision to blacklist it had featured “procedural mistakes” that invalidated the decision.

Hamas has slammed the sanctions resulting from the listing, arguing that it is a legally-elected government after winning the Palestinian legislative elections back in 2006.

blacklisting had been based on information from the media and the Internet instead of establishing independently that the group deserved to be brought under sanctions.

On Wednesday, however, the Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice (ECJ) repealed the General Court’s verdict, responding to an appeal against it by EU member states.

The ECJ’s decision came by

tortured during interrogation at the notorious Criminal Investigation Building after her last arrest on July 3, and being denied the right to meet her family members or contact her lawyer.

Rights group Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain has enumerated a list of restrictive measures that the Al Khalifah regime has taken against Saegh.

Manama regime officials imposed a travel ban on the human rights advocate last June and prevented her from attending the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council in the Swiss city of Geneva.

In January, Saegh was summoned to Bahrain’s National Security Agency building in Muharraq, an island about 7 kilometers northeast of the capital Manama.

She was interrogated for her human rights activities, and one of the officers told her that she had presented a “bad” image of Bahrain.

Before leaving the building, she was warned that “her next visit would be a different one.”

## EU Court Keeps Hamas on ‘Terror’ Blacklist

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – **The European Union’s top court has ruled that Hamas should remain on the 28-nation bloc’s “terror” blacklist, rejecting an earlier decision by a lower court to remove the Palestinian resistance movement from the list.**

The European Union first placed Hamas on the list in 2001. In 2014, the General Court removed the Palestinian resistance movement’s name.

It said back then that the