

Zionist Regime Revives Plan to Build Illegal Settler Units

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s authorities have started construction work on a controversial settlement project in the occupied East al-Quds, which they had previously halted over opposition from the former U.S. administration.

The Zionist regime’s media said plans were revived for the construction of some 1,600 settler units in the Givat Hamatos of East al-Quds.

Heavy machinery was seen in the area, according to Israeli Channel 10.

The neighborhood, where the new units are to be built, is located on the other side of the pre-1967 borders, or the so-called Green Line, meaning that the location is part of the territory that Palestinians want as a future independent state.

The Zionist regime has for long been building settlements in such territory in an attempt to diminish chances for the establishment of any future Palestinian state. The administration of former U.S. president Barack Obama had been at odds with Tel Aviv over such construction.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) last year approved



A view of caravans in the Givat Hamatos neighborhood of East al-Quds

a resolution that calls on the regime to immediately and completely cease all settlement activities on occupied Palestinian territory, including the West Bank, where East al-Quds is located.

The passing of that resolution was made possible by the U.S.’s uncharacteristic decision to abstain

and not veto the document. All the other 14 members of the UNSC voted for the resolution.

The new U.S. administration, of President Donald Trump, has denounced the passing of that resolution and has hinted several times that it supports al-Quds as the “capital” of the Israeli-occupied

territories.

In February this year, however, Trump mildly toned down his support for the settlements.

“I’d like to see you hold back on settlements for a little bit,” Trump told a visiting Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu back then.

Turkish Security Council:

Ankara Should Close Air Space to Northern Iraq

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey’s national Security Council on Monday advised the government to close its air space to Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdish region and have Baghdad take control of the Iraqi side of its main border crossing.

The attempt to put the Habur border gate under control of the Iraqi central government

signals a change of policy from Ankara, which had previously threatened to close the gate after Kurds in northern Iraq voted for independence.

The Habur gate is the main transit point between Turkey and Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government. The Sept. 25 referendum, in

which Kurds in northern Iraq voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence, has alarmed Baghdad, Iraq’s neighbors and Western powers, all of whom fear further regional conflict could arise from the vote.

Ankara, which has been battling a three-decade insurgency in its own mainly Kurdish southeast, fears an

independent Kurdish state on its borders would heighten separatist tension at home.

“The steps taken following the illegitimate referendum that violates the Iraqi constitution were evaluated and the recommended measures were discussed,” the national Security Council said in a statement.

Qatari Emir in Malaysia in Blow to Saudi Arabia

DOHA (Dispatches) – Malaysia has rolled out the red carpet for Qatar’s emir, who is on his first trip to Southeast Asia amid a simmering diplomatic crisis with Saudi Arabia and its allies.

King Sultan Muhammad V, Prime Minister Najib Razak and cabinet ministers were on hand in Kuala Lumpur Monday to give the Qatari leader a detailed state welcome.

Sheikh Tamim, who arrived late Sunday, was given a 21-gun salute before he sat down to oversee the signing of agreements on training for diplomats, higher education, and legal and judicial cooperation.

Sheikh Tamim is accompanied by a delegation of cabinet members and businessmen in his visit which

will also take him to Singapore and Indonesia.

This is his second trip abroad since the diplomatic crisis erupted after he traveled to Turkey, Germany, France and the United States in September.

Qatar’s al-Jazeera broadcaster said the visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of energy, economy, and investment.

Later Monday, the Qatari emir traveled to Putrajaya, Malaysia’s administrative capital, to meet Prime Minister Najib at his residence.

It is definitely a hard pill to swallow for Saudi leaders whose intimate relationship with Najib has

landed them in a controversy.

The Malaysian premier has been the subject of investigation over \$681 million transferred into his account back in 2013, which he has said was personal donations from the Saudi royal family.

Najib visited Riyadh in March and met with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, where they said relations were as strong as ever. Salman answered the visit eight months ago on his first trip to the Southeast Asian country by a Saudi king in more than a decade.

In a statement on Monday, Najib said, “We pray that with the grace of Allah the Almighty, all differences among our Arab brothers will be settled amicably and that the unity

and harmony of the GCC countries can be restored.”

He was referring to the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, a group of regional Arab countries which have ejected Qatar.

Qatar remains under a Saudi-led trade and diplomatic blockade imposed on it back in June over what Riyadh and its allies call Doha’s support for terrorism and close ties with Iran.

The sanctioning states, which also comprise the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt, have presented Qatar with a list of demands in order to normalize ties. Doha has rejected the demands, saying they are meant to force the country to surrender its sovereignty.

At Least ...

(Continued From Page One)

“Galicia is not burning by itself. Galicia is being burned,” said Alberto Nunez Feijoo, head of the regional government, blaming “terrorist arsonists”.

Five wildfires near Vigo, Galicia’s biggest city, forced the evacuation of a shopping mall and a PSA Peugeot Citroen factory on the outskirts of the city, though workers were able to return to the factory on Monday.

The city of around 300,000 residents has opened up two sports centers and booked rooms in three hotels for people who had to evacuate their homes.

At least 10 schools cancelled classes on Monday in Vigo because of the flames, local officials said.

Two women also died on Sunday after being engulfed in flames trapped in their van near Nigran, outside Vigo, and an elderly man died in an animal shed near his house in Carballada de Avia.

The national weather office forecast rain and cooler temperatures in Galicia starting Monday, which officials hope will help put out the flames.

Hurricane Ophelia swept past Spain before being downgraded to a violent storm on Monday as it battered Ireland.

Meteorologists said Ophelia was the most powerful hurricane recorded so far east in the Atlantic and the first since 1939 to travel so far north.

UK ...

(Continued From Page One)

“Despite repeated claims... to the contrary, Bahrain has been steadily backtracking on the promises of reform it made following its heavy-handed response to the uprising in 2011,” Amnesty said.

The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) urged arms companies not to attend BIDEDEC.

Sophie Baggott, of BIRD, said: “It is extremely concerning that companies could be content to advertise and sell arms to Bahrain, a member of the Saudi-led coalition whose bombing of Yemen has helped to create the world’s worst man-made humanitarian crisis.

“Not only could these weapons be used against Yemeni civilians, but also against Bahrain’s own citizens whose freedoms have been curtailed drastically over the past 18 months.”

Amnesty said it had received reports of nine cases of government critics being tortured in detention, eight of them in May 2017 alone.

Clarion’s defense chairman, and a former director at the British ministry of defence, Simon Williams, said in a welcome message that “Clarion Events are honored to have been given the opportunity to organize this prestigious event on behalf of the Bahrain Defense Force and the government of Bahrain.”

Clarion Events did not respond to a request for comment on whether the British firm takes into account a foreign government’s human rights record when they organize events abroad.

Speakers at the arms fair include Colonel Turki Bin Salen al-Malik, spokesperson for the current Saudi-led war on Yemen, which has claimed at least 16,000 lives, and General David Richards, former chief of the UK armed forces.

McLaren, the British car company, recently gifted Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad al-Khalifa, commander of Bahrain’s Royal Guard, and chairman of BIDEDEC, a sports car wrapped in military camouflage, to commemorate the opening of the arms fair.

A spokesperson for the UK government’s Department for International Trade Defense and Security Organization, a delegation from which is attending BIDEDEC,

told MEE that “I can confirm that DITDSO takes a number of factors into account before deciding to exhibit at overseas exhibitions.

“Our aim is to support the UK’s defense and security industries in our overseas markets. You will be aware that the UK has one of the most stringent export license criteria.”

Iranians ...

(Continued From Page 2)

Many of the ordinary Iranians CNN spoke to said they supported Iran’s nuclear program, the broadcaster said.

“We’re not a small country. We should stand up for ourselves,” student Mona Ragie, 21, tells CNN in Tajrish Square, one of Tehran’s upscale neighborhoods.

Many of the Iranians CNN spoke to said they supported Iran’s nuclear deal and the access to global markets it affords, but they say that it should not affect Iran’s sovereignty, or the ever-present Iranian national “pride.”

“My view as an Iranian is that I do not consider (Trump) more significant than a fly,” said Hadaytollah Rabiye. “Why? Because I’m 81 years old and I know that (the U.S.) has always tried to oppress us. We’ve been threatened for the past 40 years. This country stands like a mountain.”

“I like Trump ... he’s made people angry with his speech and that’s unified people in the world and in Iran,” said Shakir Hussein, 37, a dentist and make-up artist.

For most people here, Trump’s biggest political faux pas was in his naming of the body of water wedged between Iran and its Persian Gulf Arab neighbors.

“This shows that (Trump) is not an educated person and doesn’t know anything about the way the world works,” says Shuhreh Ja’afari, 50. “I think he was paid by the Arab countries.”

“One of our rallying points of unity is the ‘Persian Gulf,’” explained attorney Momed Sadek Saidi. “By using the fake terminology of the ‘Arab gulf,’ (Trump) has made us more unified.”

“(Trump’s speech) made us realize that if we don’t stand together, the enemy would exploit the distance between us,” the soft-spoken Shariatmadari said, sitting beneath a portrait of Ayatollah Khamenei.

“A widespread unity was created among us,” CNN quoted him as saying.

Parliament ...

(Continued From Page 2)

Trump had already endorsed the agreement twice but on Friday he handed its fate to the U.S. Congress, entrusting the landmark deal’s future to some of its staunchest critics.

After Trump’s speech, the UK, France, Russia, China, and Germany, which are the other parties to the accord, reiterated their continued commitment to it.

Zerbo said he has always appreciated Iran’s “positive and constructive position” regarding the JCPOA, the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) reported.

“The JCPOA is the most important agreement, which has been reached in this area over the past 10 years. All the parties should strive to preserve it,” it quoted Zerbo as saying.

Ministry ...

(Continued From Page 2)

The administration of former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper severed diplomatic ties with Iran in September 2012, citing, among other pretexts, what it described as continued threats from Iran to Israel.

Shortly after Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau assumed office in November 2015, Canada lifted a number of sanctions on Iran.

Explosion in Southeast Turkey Kills 2 Soldiers

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – Two Turkish soldiers were killed on Monday in the southeastern province of Hakkari after an improvised explosive device detonated, Turkish broadcaster CNN Turk said.

The bomb was set off as a Turkish army truck drove past it near the Iraqi border.

No group or individual has so far claimed responsibility for the blast,

but Ankara blames such assaults mostly on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) or Daesh terrorists.

Earlier this month, a bomb explosion in the same province left four soldiers dead and four others wounded.

Over the past few years, Turkey has seen a rise in terror attacks targeting civilians and security forces.

Turkey has banned the PKK, which has been calling for an autonomous Kurdish region since 1984, as a terrorist organization. Clashes between Turkish forces and the militants have left more than 40,000 people, mostly Kurds, dead over the past three decades.

A shaky ceasefire between Ankara and the PKK that had stood since 2013 was declared null and void by

the militants in 2015 in the wake of a large-scale Turkish military campaign against the group. Attacks on Turkish security forces have soared ever since.

Turkish air force has been carrying out operations against the PKK positions in the country’s troubled southeastern border region as well as in northern Iraq and neighboring Syria.