

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The leader of the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, has strongly condemned the recent decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to recognize Israeli-occupied al-Quds as the capital of the Zionist regime, stressing that the so-called ‘state of Israel’ does not exist and cannot have a capital of its own. Addressing Hamas supporters on the 30th anniversary of the founding of the movement in Gaza City, Ismail Haniyeh lauded the sacrifices made by members of the resistance movement to keep the Palestinian cause alive.

If matters get mixed up then scrutinize the cause and you will know what the effects will be.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Lebanon, Turkey Mull Embassies in Al-Quds



Lebanese demonstrators march with a model of the Dome of the Rock in the al-Aqsa Mosque compound along with their national flags and the flags of Palestine and the resistance movement Hezbollah during a protest in the capital Beirut on December 11, 2017.

BEIRUT (Press TV) – Lebanon and Turkey are considering opening diplomatic missions in the occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds in response to U.S. President Donald Trump’s controversial recognition of the whole city as the “capital” of Israel.

In a post on his official Twitter account, Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil described East Jerusalem al-Quds as “the capital of Palestine,” saying he had informed Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas of his willingness to establish a Lebanese embassy there.

Bassil also noted that Abbas had promised to provide a piece of land for Lebanon’s mission in al-Quds.

The top Lebanese diplomat further pointed out that the embassy plan was expected to be debated during the cabinet meeting later on Thursday.

Separately, Turkey’s main opposition party,

the Republican People’s Party (CHP), called on the government to open the country’s embassy in East Jerusalem al-Quds.

“Turkey should immediately, without wasting time, open its embassy to Palestine in East Jerusalem,” Engin Altay, CHP’s deputy chairman, said on Thursday.

The developments came after the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) declared in a statement that it would recognize “East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine and invite all countries to recognize the State of Palestine and East Jerusalem as its occupied capital.”

The statement was issued at the end of an emergency summit of the 57-member organization in the Turkish city of Istanbul on Wednesday.

The event came one week after Trump declared that Washington was recognizing Jerusalem al-Quds as the “capital” of Israel and that he had instructed his administration to begin the process of moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city.

The dramatic shift in Washington’s Jerusalem al-Quds policy drew fierce criticism from the international community, including Washington’s Western allies, and triggered protests against the US and Israel worldwide.

The occupying regime of Israel lays claim to the whole Jerusalem al-Quds, but the international community views the ancient city’s eastern sector as occupied land and the Palestinians consider it their future capital.

Saudi FM: Riyadh Has Plan to Establish Ties With Zionist Regime

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Amid widespread reports of behind-the-scenes cooperation between Riyadh and the Zionist regime, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir says the kingdom has a “roadmap” to establish full diplomatic ties with the Tel Aviv regime.

Speaking to France 24 television, Jubeir said Riyadh has a plan for normalization with Tel Aviv if an agreement is reached between Palestine and the Israeli entity.

The top Saudi diplomat further denied that reports that the kingdom had any relations with Tel Aviv, despite their mutual concerns over Iran’s growing regional influence.

In mid-November, Lebanon’s al-Akhbar daily published a secret undated letter from Jubeir to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that puts forward a plan to normalize ties with the occupying regime.

According to the report, Riyadh and Tel Aviv would first try to work out a solution to the Zionist-Palestinian conflict, which would significantly sideline the interests of the Palestinian nation.

Meanwhile, the Zionist regime’s intelligence minister Yisrael Katz

wants Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to visit Tel Aviv.

Katz revealed his wish during an interview with a Saudi-run news website, said the minister’s spokesman, Arye Shalicar.

“He said that he asks the king to invite (Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu officially to Riyadh, and he asks MBS, Mohammed bin Salman, the son, to come and visit Israel,” AFP quoted Shalicar as saying.

In recent years, there have been numerous reports of behind-the-scenes contacts between Riyadh and Tel Aviv, despite the fact that Saudi Arabia, along with other Arab League states, does not formally recognize the occupying entity.

In November, Zionist Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz revealed for the first time that Tel Aviv has had covert contacts with Saudi Arabia.

Zionist Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz wants Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to visit Tel Aviv.

Katz revealed his wish during an interview with a Saudi-run news website, said the minister’s spokesman, Arye Shalicar, on Wednesday.

Zionist Troops Kill 2 Palestinians in West Bank, Gaza Strip



Zionist troops take aim as Palestinian protestors gather near the West Bank checkpoint of Qalandia, on the outskirts of Ramallah, on December 15, 2017.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s troops have shot dead two young Palestinian men in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip amid ongoing tensions between Zionist troops and Palestinian protesters in the occupied territories over the recent decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to recognize Israeli-occupied al-Quds as the capital of the Tel Aviv regime.

Palestinian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Zionist troops shot dead a Palestinian at Beit El checkpoint north of the central West Bank city of al-Bireh, located 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) north of al-Quds, on Friday afternoon for allegedly carrying out a stabbing attack, Arabic-language al-Aqsa television network reported.

A Zionist trooper was injured in the purported assault.

The second Palestinian, identified as Yasir Soker, 32, was shot dead in Gaza’s Shejaiyah district.

The development came as separate clashes erupted between Palestinians and troops across the occupied West Bank following Friday noon prayers.

The Zionist regime deployed troops to al-Quds in anticipation of more angry demonstrations following Muslim Friday prayers against an internationally-criticized U.S. declaration on the ancient city.

On Friday, the Zionist regime’s military dispatched reinforcements across al-Quds and its Old City, which hosts the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Earlier in the day, Tel Aviv’s forces raided the town of Halhul in the southern occupied West Bank, prompting heavy clashes with the Palestinian residents, Palestinian media reported.

Several Palestinians were injured as Zionist troops fired tear gas and sound bombs to disperse the protesters in Halhul, located north of al-Khalil.

Palestinians are angry at an announcement on December 6 by U.S. President Donald Trump that Washington was recognizing al-Quds as the “capital” of the Zionist regime.

Since then, they have been holding protests against the U.S. and the occupying regime on a daily basis.

EU Snubs U.S., Position on al-Quds ‘Unchanged’

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – European Union leaders have rejected a contentious US decision to recognize al-Quds as the Zionist regime’s “capital,” saying the 28-member bloc’s stance on the city remains “unchanged.”

“EU leaders reiterate firm commitment to the two-state solution and, in this context, the EU position on Jerusalem [al-Quds] remains unchanged,” President of the European Council Donald Tusk said in a message posted on his official Twitter account on Thursday.

The tweet came after EU leaders discussed Trump’s decision at a summit underway in the Belgian capital of Brussels.

On December 6, Trump sparked international outrage as he declared that Washington was

recognizing al-Quds as the “capital” of the regime and that he had instructed his administration to begin the process of moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the ancient city.

The dramatic shift in Washington’s Jerusalem policy has drawn fierce criticism from the international community, including Washington’s own allies, while triggering demonstrations against the U.S. and the Zionist regime worldwide.

Thursday’s statement by the bloc’s heads of state and government adds fresh weight to the criticism of Trump’s move.

According to media reports, French President Emmanuel Macron had lobbied for a sharper statement against Trump’s declaration.

The Zionist regime failed to torpedo the statement, but managed to get the French text watered down with the help of the Czech Republic and Hungary.

On December 7, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini voiced alarm at the U.S. decision and said it could take the region “backwards to even darker times.”

Lebanon and Turkey are considering opening diplomatic missions in the occupied East al-Quds in response to U.S. President Donald Trump’s controversial recognition of the whole city as the “capital” of Israel.

In a post on his official Twitter account, Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil described East al-Quds as “the capital of Palestine,” saying he had in-

formed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of his willingness to establish a Lebanese embassy there.

Bassil also noted that Abbas had promised to provide a piece of land for Lebanon’s mission in al-Quds.

The top Lebanese diplomat further pointed out that the embassy plan was expected to be debated during the cabinet meeting.

Separately, Turkey’s main opposition party, the Republican People’s Party (CHP), called on the government to open the country’s embassy in East al-Quds.

“Turkey should immediately, without wasting time, open its embassy to Palestine in East al-Quds,” Engin Altay, CHP’s deputy chairman, said.

Amnesty Int’l:

Saudi Hostility With Qatar Taking Toll on Ordinary Citizens

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Ordinary people are bearing the brunt of the ongoing political crisis in the Persian Gulf region, involving Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt on one side and the tiny kingdom of Qatar, Amnesty International says.

The Saudi-led bloc cut diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing Doha of sponsoring terrorism and destabilizing the region.

They have also imposed a series of economic sanctions against the country while also barring Qatari aircraft from using their airspace. Qatar’s only land border with Saudi Arabia has also been blocked as a result.

Citing interviews with Qatari individuals and officials, Amnesty said Thursday that the enmity was taking its toll on ordinary people by tearing their families apart, raising

food prices and making visits to Islamic holy sites in Saudi Arabia more difficult.

Mixed marriage families also found it difficult to meet or contact their relatives in the blockading countries despite measures that were introduced to ease the process.

According to the report, many families on the Qatari side were finding it difficult to comply with procedures required to obtain a “laissez-passer” that allows them to see loved ones in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain or the UAE, the report said.

“Amnesty International urges Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE to lift all arbitrary travel restrictions impeding the freedom of movement of (Persian) Gulf nationals and residents,” the report said.

“Arbitrarily splitting up families as part

of immigration policies violates the right to family life,” Amnesty added.

“Since this dispute began in June, our fears about its potential to rip families apart have been cruelly and emphatically realized,” Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty’s Middle East research director, said in a statement.

The restrictions have also created a “climate of fear” among mixed families, who are afraid they would get arrested for trying to contact people and offices in other nations.

“Our relatives are scared to speak to us even over the phone. The law does not allow them to sympathize with us. They are very reserved in the conversations we have, as if we were strangers,” a Qatari woman whose brothers live in the UAE told Amnesty.