

Zionist War Minister:

Sniper Who Shot Unarmed Palestinian Deserves Medal

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's war minister Avigdor Lieberman has praised a Zionist sniper who has been filmed targeting an unarmed Palestinian in the besieged Gaza Strip.

"The sniper deserves a medal, the photographer a court martial," Lieberman said at a press conference.

Lieberman described the occupying regime's military as "the most moral army in the world," saying such "tensions" sometimes happen on the frontline.

In the video, which was widely shared on Twitter and WhatsApp messaging application, the troops can be heard talking about the target and how to shoot him, as the sniper trains his rifle on the Palestinian, who does not appear to be armed and is several meters away from Gaza's fence.

Following Lieberman's remarks, the army revealed that the video was

filmed on December 22, 2017 in the area of Kissuffim near the Gaza Strip.

In the footage, the commander is heard asking the sniper before he takes the shot, "Do you have a bullet in the chamber? Are you [trained] on him?"

The sniper and the other soldiers are heard rejoicing following the "successful" shooting.

Another trooper is heard saying, "Wow, [he] shot him in the head."

A fellow accomplice, who is filming the incident, then exclaims, "Of course I filmed it," in response to a question, before calling it "a legendary video." "Yes!" "What a fabulous video," the others cry with joy. "He flew in the air."

The victim is then seen carried away by a group of Palestinians. It is unclear whether he survived the shooting or not, but the regime's army says he was shot in the leg and injured.

The chief of staff of the regime's



Zionist troops aim their weapons towards Palestinian demonstrators on March 31, 2018 during clashes in occupied West Bank city of al-Khalil.

military, Lieutenant General Gadi Eizenkot, and its top commanders promised to investigate the video "without hesitation."

The footage has drawn widespread condemnation from Israeli lawmakers and human rights organizations.

Rights bodies have argued that the video represents what is the rule for the Israeli army, rather than the exception.

The Israeli rights group, B'Tselem, said the military issues "illegal orders telling soldiers to shoot people who endanger nobody."

Iraqi Security Forces Discover Mass Grave Near Mosul

BAGHDAD (Press TV) – Iraqi security forces have found a mass grave in the country's northern province of Nineveh containing the bodies of dozens of civilians, mostly women, whom are believed to have been executed by Daesh terrorists.

Captain Amir Wathiq told Arabic-language Basnews news agency that members of the Federal Police force unearthed the mass grave in Hammam al-Alil town, located around 25 kilometers south of the provincial capital city of Mosul, on Wednesday.

Wathiq added the mass grave contains the bodies of around 60 victims, noting that there are mostly the remains of women among the corpses.

The provincial police official further noted that the bodies have been transferred to the forensic department in Mosul to undergo DNA tests.

Earlier this month, Iraqi forensic specialists found a mass grave containing the remains of about 160 victims of a June 2014 massacre by Daesh Takfiri terrorists at an air force camp in the country's north-central province of Salahuddin.

Zaid Ali, head of the forensic office, said a joint team from his bureau and the Martyrs Foundation found 158 bodies inside the palace compound of former dictator Saddam Hussein in Tikrit, located 140 kilometers northwest of the capital Baghdad, on April 2.

He noted that DNA tests were being conducted on the corpses in order to identify them.

Iraqi security forces foil plot to detonate ancient citadel

Separately, Iraqi security forces have thwarted a plot by remnants of Daesh Takfiri terrorist outfit to detonate an ancient citadel in Tal Afar, located 63 kilometers west of

Mosul.

Iraq's Joint Operations Command spokesman Yahya Rasoul said the forces found four barrels filled with highly explosive Composition C-4, ten explosive belts, 100 mortar shells, two rockets and 11 landmines that had been placed under the historical site.

On December 9, 2017, Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared the end of military operations against the Daesh terrorist group in the Arab country.

"Our forces are in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border and I therefore announce the end of the war against Daesh," Abadi told a conference in Baghdad then.

The Iraqi prime minister said on August 31 that Tal Afar and the entire Nineveh province had been purged of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group.

The recapture of Tal Afar was made possible with the help of

the Iraqi army, Federal Police, Counter-Terrorism Service units, pro-government fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units, commonly known by the Arabic name Hashd al-Sha'abi, and the Interior Ministry's elite rapid response forces, Abadi stated.

On July 10, Abadi formally declared victory over Daesh extremists in Mosul, which served as the terrorists' main urban stronghold in the conflict-ridden Arab country.

In the run-up to Mosul's liberation, Iraqi army soldiers and volunteer Hashd al-Sha'abi fighters had made sweeping gains against Daesh.

The Iraqi forces took control of eastern Mosul in January 2017 after 100 days of fighting, and launched the battle in the west on February 19 last year.

Daesh began a terror campaign in Iraq in 2014, overrunning vast swathes in lightning attacks.

Over Violations of Airspace

Lebanon to File Complaint With UN Against Zionist Regime

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's Foreign Ministry has strongly denounced recent violations of Lebanon's airspace by the Zionist regime to launch airstrikes in Syria, saying Beirut intends to lodge a formal complaint with the United Nations Security Council.

"The Foreign Ministry condemns the air raids launched at the Syrian Arab Republic and affirms its previous position that Lebanon's airspace should not be used to attack Syria. Lebanon will make a formal complaint

with the UN Security Council," said a statement released by the ministry.

Early on Monday, a pair of F-15 warplanes belonging to the Zionist regime carried out strikes from Lebanese air space on T-4 air base in Homs that killed and wounded a number of people. Syrian air defense systems shot down five out of eight missiles fired.

Shortly after the airstrikes, Damascus warned about the "dangerous repercussions" of the regime's assaults on its territories, stressing that the recent attack

on Homs would not have been possible without massive U.S. support.

Lebanon's Army Command-Orientation Directorate, however, said that four Israeli warplanes had breached Lebanon's airspace to conduct the airstrikes.

According to the statement, the fighter jets violated the Lebanese airspace at 3:25 a.m. local time flying over the sea to the west of Jounieh, a coastal city about 16 kilometers north of the Lebanese capital, adding that the warplanes had flown east over the city of

Baalbek and then left the country's airspace at 3:35 a.m. local time.

The Lebanese people have also called on the government to take serious measures to stop Israel's violations of their country's sovereignty. The call comes as observers in Lebanon are calling for retaliatory measures against the regime, which has a long history of violating Lebanon's sovereignty and targeting Lebanese patrol soldiers. It also violates Lebanon's airspace on an almost daily basis by sending in drones on spy missions.

U.S., ...

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Ali Akbar Velayati, the top adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said during a visit to Damascus on Tuesday that an Israeli attack on an air base in Syria earlier this week would "not remain without response".

The Zionist regime held top-level security consultations on Wednesday amid concern it could be targeted by Syria or Iran if the United States strikes Syrian government forces.

On Monday, UN Syria peace envoy Staffan de Mistura cited the air base strike along with other recent events in Syria in a briefing to the Security Council, cautioning against a "situation

of uncontrollable escalation".

Syria's Russian-supplied air defenses shot down an Israeli F-16 jet in February during a previous bombing run against what the Zionist regime described as Iranian-backed positions in Syria.

Syria described Trump's threat as a "reckless escalation", state news agency SANA said.

"We are not surprised by such a reckless escalation from a regime like the United States which has fostered and continues to foster terrorism in Syria," SANA reported an official source at the foreign ministry as saying.

Damascus has almost entirely expelled terrorists from their former bastion of Eastern Ghouta outside Damascus since mid-February, angering their supporters.

The terrorist group dug in Douma,

Jaish al-Islam, finally agreed to withdraw. That clinched a huge victory for Syria, crushing a long bastion of terrorism in the Eastern Ghouta region near the capital Damascus.

"It's not at all strange that it (the United States) supports the terrorists in Ghouta and condones their fabrications and lies to use them as a pretext to target Syria," a Syrian official source said Wednesday.

Trump and other Western leaders have vowed a quick and forceful response to Saturday's alleged gas attack, which rescue workers say killed more than 40 people.

The United States, Britain and France have argued the attack bears all the hallmarks of a strike ordered by the Syrian government. Damascus and Moscow have rejected the accusations

as "fabrications".

Last year, Trump launched a cruise missile strike against a Syrian air base in retaliation for an alleged sarin attack.

Russian military police would enter Douma Thursday, Foreign Ministry said. The Russian army said the situation in Eastern Ghouta had been "totally stabilized".

"The situation in Eastern Ghouta has been totally stabilized. Refugees are continuously returning to where they lived. As of today some 60,000 people have returned to their homes," Lt-Gen. Viktor Poznikhir said at a briefing in Moscow.

Military ...

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An Air Algeria passenger plane flying

from Burkina Faso to Algiers crashed in northern Mali in July 2014, killing all 116 people on board including 54 French nationals.

In October the same year, a military plane crashed in the south of the country during a training exercise, killing the two men on board.

That came more than a decade after all but one of the 103 people on an Air Algeria Boeing 737-200 died in March 2003 when it crashed on takeoff in the country's south after an engine caught fire.

U.S. Welcomes ...

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitors the implementation of the JCPOA, has repeatedly confirmed Tehran's compliance with the deal, but the U.S. has violated it through imposing new sanctions and threatening international firms willing to do business with Iran.

Meanwhile, the European Union's idea of new sanctions has been denounced by Iranian officials and media.

On Sunday, the Basirat news and views website said the EU has made a big mistake by entering into talks with the U.S. over the Iran nuclear deal, instead of holding its ground and announcing that it would never accept U.S. calls for renegotiation of the pact.

It touched on a new bid by France, the UK and Germany to persuade their EU partners to support new sanctions against Iran with the purported aim of saving the nuclear deal, stating that Italy was doubtful they would prevent the U.S. from abandoning the pact.

"Italy, supported by Spain and Austria, has opposed imposing travel ban and asset freeze on 15 firms and persons connected to Iran's missile program and presence in Syria. Some European countries believe these measures won't be enough to convince Trump to stay in the deal and will endanger growing trade relations with Iran," the website wrote in an opinion piece.

"The behavior of European powers in the face of U.S. insistence on altering the deal and their inactivity has enabled the White House to leave the EU with two options: either to help change the deal or see the pact cancelled," it said.

Talks between the U.S. and Europe in the past eight months have borne no fruit, the website said, adding "the European Union and European powers have not only failed to keep the deal in place, but they have thrown into question their prestige and credibility in the international scene."

President ...

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Temer, for his part, said Brazil is eager to expand ties with Iran and develop cooperation with the country in high-tech fields, calling for the exchange of delegations and closer contacts between the two countries.

The president said Brazil has no problem with the expansion of Iran's peaceful nuclear activities and it supports them.

The Brazilian president said there is possibility for closer cooperation in oil and gas fields, adding that exchanging political and economic delegations between the two countries will help deepen relations between them.

After the meeting, Zarif left the Brazilian capital for Uruguay, the third leg of his four-nation tour, which earlier took him to Senegal, and will later end in Namibia.

Saudi ...

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Moreover, Riyadh cannot change its fate by playing a blame game, buying security or supporting terrorist groups, the Iranian official added.

The spokesman said the current Saudi rulers, along with the Zionist regime, have become the symbol of crime and aggression in the Middle East. They have aggravated instability by interfering in the affairs of other countries, he added.

"Some Saudi leaders in the past and now, with their rash policies such as their unwavering support for Saddam, the creation and support of al-Qaeda, Daesh and other terrorist groups, invasion of Yemen, and now seeking alliance with the Zionist regime, have

subjected the Middle East to increasing tension, instability and wars."

Qasemi was reacting to Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman's accusations during his visit to France. France, he said, must have reminded the Saudi leaders of the fate of previous Middle East dictators and aggressors in the region.

MP ...

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He made the remarks in a Wednesday meeting with the executive director of European Security and Nuclear Disarmament Network Tarja Cronberg.

Boroujerdi referred to a recent decision by the U.S. to violate its commitments under the Iran nuclear deal and said Tehran has no motivation to remain further in the agreement if the U.S. pulls out of it.

"If U.S. Congress decides to pull out of the JCPOA, the Islamic Republic of Iran will have no motivation to remain in the nuclear deal and the world would come to this sense that the capabilities of Iran to press ahead with its nuclear program are much higher compared with the pre-JCPOA era."

Broujerdi said Tehran expects the European countries to stand strongly against the other side's violation of the international deal.

For her part, the European official expressed hope that the remaining disputes over the JCPOA implementation would be removed soon, adding Iran and Europe have common interests particularly in the economic fields.

"Iran has not yet benefited completely from the economic fruits of the JCPOA," she added.

She went on to say the European states were after a mechanism to preserve the Iran nuclear deal and that those efforts would continue in the future.

Pakistan...

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"Now, Pakistan is on the path of economic progress, it is rated as the most progressive emerging market with GDP growth of 6 per cent this year and projection of 6.5% in the coming year," the Ambassador said.

Ambassador Durrani lauded the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran which are getting stronger by the day and said that both countries have displayed exemplary cooperation on many regional and international issues.

With 35 % increase in bilateral trade since last year, the Ambassador expressed hope of attaining 5 billion dollars mark of bilateral trade in the next three years. The Ambassador hoped that the successful completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would further boost Pakistan- Iran cooperation as transit hub for the region.

Iran's Interior Minister Rahmani Fazli, in his speech extended felicitations to the government and people of Pakistan on Pakistan's National Day and lauded commemorating of 70 years of relations between Iran and Pakistan including cultural, civilizational, religious and historical.

The Iranian interior minister reiterated the interest of the Leader Islamic Revolution of Iran on the expansion and deepening relations with Pakistan and said that it has given further strength to these bonds, which has been followed by all the governments of Iran, especially the present government of Rouhani.

Rahmani Fazli hoped that opening of new border points between both the countries would enhance potential of border markets and border security. The development of Gwadar and Chabahar ports, signing of FTA and implementation of PTA, establishing banking channels between Pakistan and Iran would bring about economic prosperity for both the neighbors and the region.

At the end of the ceremony, the Ambassador, the Iranian minister and the dignitaries cut a cake to mark Pakistan-Iran friendship.

A documentary showing Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and economic progress was also screened on the multimedia. (Since 23rd March falls during Norouz holidays in Iran, Pakistan National Day reception was held on 10th April, 2018).