

'U.S. Troops Not Leaving Syria Until Goals Accomplished'

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said on Sunday that the United States would not pull its troops out of Syria until its goals were accomplished.

Speaking on Fox News Sunday, Haley listed three aims for the United States: ensuring that chemical weapons are not used in any way that pose a risk to U.S. interests, that Daesh is defeated and that there is a good vantage point to watch what Iran is doing.

It is our goal "to see American troops come home, but we are not going to leave until we know we have accomplished those things," Haley said.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump's declared "Mission Accomplished" hours after missile strikes on Syria with the help France and the UK, but questions remain unanswered on what was actually the mission and its possible achievement.

The strikes hit three sites -- one in the Syrian capital, Damascus, and two in the city of Homs -- which President Donald Trump claimed were "associated with the chemical weapon capabilities" of the Syrian government.

The aggression, however, was limited to a single night, with U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis saying it was a "one-time shot" to send a strong message to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian government has rejected claims that it was behind the suspected chemical attack -- near the capital



A protester burns an U.S. flag outside the U.S. Embassy in Athens on April 14, 2018 during a rally against American military intervention in Syria.

Damascus on April 7. The attack reportedly took place in the former terrorist-held town of Douma in Eastern Ghouta.

Haley's warning comes after American, British and French forces fired over one hundred missiles at the Arab country on Saturday.

The American military described that attack as "precision strikes" on three targets in Syria that it falsely claimed to be associated with the country's alleged

chemical weapons arsenal, without producing any evidence.

The strike has drawn global outcry since it was carried out before the international chemical weapons watchdog could probe the incident.

The attack also drew immediate and fierce condemnation from Syria as well as China, Russia Iran and Iraq, accusing Washington, London and Paris of deliberately violating international law and blatantly breaching Syria's

sovereignty.

In condemning the U.S.-led attack, Assad insisted on Saturday that the missile strikes would only strengthen his nation's resolve to keep its fight against Western-backed terror groups and "crush terrorism in every inch of the nation."

The U.S. has reportedly around 2,000 troops stationed in Syria working as "advisers" to U.S.-backed militant groups fighting the Syrian government.

'Mission ...

(Continued From Page One)

He ordered a missile strike against Shayrat Airbase in Syria's Homs Province on April 7, 2017. He claimed back then that the air field had been the origin of a suspected sarin gas attack on the town of Khan Shaykhun in Syria's Idlib Province on April 4, 2017.

Syria turned over its entire chemical stockpile under a deal negotiated by Russia and the United States back in 2013.

Washington, London and Paris said their aggression was in response to last week's alleged chemical attack in the Damascus suburb town of Douma, which they blamed on the Damascus government.

Iran's ...

(Continued From Page One)

"Over the past 6-7 years, such adventurist moves have always existed but they have failed each and every time. However, the betrayal of certain Muslim countries in such a dirty game of politics will be etched in the memory of faithful masses."

The U.S.-led military action, he said, begs the question why the three countries launched the attack, after all.

"These three countries claim that the Syrian government used chemical arms days ago, and that Syria managed to drive terrorists from the outskirts of Damascus thanks to these very weapons," he said.

"However, the Syrian and Russian governments have denied the allegation and called on international circles to look into the case."

Larijani said the military action was taken hastily without first waiting for the results of a possible probe to be published.

The "chemical attack" scenario, he said, was just a pretext to launch the missile attack, and the main reason behind the military action was the latest developments on the ground in Syria.

"The area around Damascus had been a den of terrorists for years with the help of major countries and some rogue regional states. They would fuel insecurity in Damascus with modern weapons," said Larijani.

"What the Syrian army did recently was to purge the area, something that state sponsors of terrorists wouldn't believe could materialize in a short period of time. So, the Saudis shamelessly made their resources available to the Americans and urged them to bombard Syria, believing they would be able to change the equation and re-establish the terrorists' safe haven," he said.

"That they think they can achieve their objectives with such a brutal and illegal act is just a mirage," Larijani added.

Saudi ...

(Continued From Page One)

Riyadh has refrained from condemning the move as well as the Israeli carnage of Gazans during "March of Return" protests which began about three weeks ago as the kingdom has secretly established links with the Zionist regime.

The event was originally slated to be held in Riyadh, but the venue was relocated to Dhahran after Yemeni troops and Ansarullah fighters targeted the Saudi capital with missiles.

Protests ...

(Continued From Page One)

"The strike brought home Mr. Trump's competing impulses when it comes to Syria — on the one hand, his manful chest-thumping intended to demonstrate that he is the toughest one on the international block, and on the other, his deep conviction that American involvement in the Middle East since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has been a waste of blood and treasure," it added.

Zionist Regime to Free 200 African Migrants Awaiting Deportation

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime will release about 200 jailed African migrants in the absence of a final deal to deport them and thousands more Eritrean and Sudanese men who entered the occupied territories illegally, the Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

The regime has been trying to finalize an agreement with Uganda to take in the migrants, who came into the Israeli-occupied territories on foot through the Egyptian border over the past decade.

Most of the 200 men set for release were sent to a desert prison in recent months to await deportation to Uganda.

But with negotiations continuing over a deal with Uganda, the regime's interior ministry — which has faced court challenges by rights groups over the detentions — issued a statement on Sunday saying it would begin releasing the migrants.

The regime says the 37,000 migrants in Israel are job seekers and that it has every right to protect its borders. The migrants and rights groups say they are seeking asylum and are fleeing war and persecution.

About 4,000 migrants have left the occupied territories for Rwanda and Uganda since 2013 under a voluntary

program, but Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has come under pressure from his right-wing voter base to expel thousands more.

On Friday Uganda acknowledged for the first time that it was in talks to take in some 500 migrants, though it said it would only accept people who left voluntarily and not by forced deportation.

The Zionist regime started handing out notices to male migrants from Eritrea and Sudan in January, giving them three months to take the voluntary deal with a plane ticket and \$3,500 or risk being thrown in jail until they are

deported.

The regime's supreme court, however, has issued temporary injunctions to give more time for petitioners to argue against the plan.

On Tuesday the regime's representatives told the court that an envoy was in an African country finalizing a deportation deal after an arrangement with Rwanda fell through.

Official documents submitted to the court said authorities have identified close to 8,000 Eritrean and Sudanese migrants it would potentially deport under compulsory expulsion.

Scores of Terrorists Killed in Infighting in Northern Syria Since Feb.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – At least 340 terrorists have been killed in fierce clashes between Tahrir al-Sham Hay'at (the Levant Liberation Board or the al-Nusra Front) and the rival terrorist group of Syria's Tahrir Front in Hama, Idlib and Aleppo provinces since mid-February, the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported on Sunday.

Tahrir al-Sham managed to capture the town of Ma'arat al-Nu'aman in southwestern Idlib after heavy fighting

with Tahrir al-Sham after they imposed control over Khan Shaykhoun earlier Sunday.

Tahrir al-Sham is now advancing near the town of Morek in northern Hama, taking control over Morek passageway.

In the meantime, the SOHR announced that a sum of 344 terrorists of Tahrir al-Sham and Syria's Tahrir Front have been killed and many more have been wounded in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib since February 20.

Earlier reports said that Tahrir al-Sham

Hay'at stormed the positions of Syria's Tahrir Front and captured more regions in Southern Idlib after talks on ease of differences among militants failed in northern Syria.

Tahrir al-Sham and Syria's Tahrir Front started again exchanging fire in northern Hama, southern Idlib and Western Aleppo after a several-day pause in infighting among terrorists.

Tahrir al-Sham managed to capture the town of Khan Shaykhoun and the villages of Sheikh Mustafa, Mowaqa,

Kafir Ein, Heish, Sahyan, Sheikh Dames, Kafir Masda, Madhaya, al-Ameriyeh, Tal Aas and the key of hill of Tal Aas.

Tahrir further deployed forces in the villages of Ma'ar Tamater, Jabala, Ma'ar Zita, Kafir Sajna and Rakaya Sajna in southern Idlib after rival terrorists' withdrawal.

In the meantime, Syria's Tahrir Front sent more troops and military equipment to the town of Dar al-Izzah in western Aleppo to face any possible attack by Tahrir al-Sham.

maximum restraint so as to avoid any Afghan civilian casualties," the Pakistan Army's public relations department said, adding that five soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Afghan officials said that Pakistani troops crossed on to Afghan soil, prompting a response by border forces and the local tribal force.

"Two tribesmen were killed and the exchange of fire is ongoing," said Mohmud Zazai, a senior army commander in the area. Pakistan has blamed Pakistani

Taliban militants it says are based on Afghan soil for attacks that have taken place in the region over the past two years, urging Kabul to eradicate "sanctuaries" for militants.

Afghanistan, in turn, accuses Islamabad of sheltering the leadership of the Afghan Taliban militants who are battling the Western-backed government in Kabul.

A local political official, who asked not to be identified, said that Pakistani security forces had

responded on Sunday by opening fire along the border.

Mosques in Pakistan's Kurram Agency region, where the attack took place, made announcements urging locals to assist the armed forces, prompting throngs of armed civilians to arrive at the border after the attack.

Kurram has been plagued by militancy over the past decade and was the location of many U.S. drone strikes targeting commanders from al Qaeda and other militant groups.

Pakistani Soldiers Killed in Attack at Afghanistan Border

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (Reuters) – Two Pakistani soldiers were killed in cross-border fire from Afghanistan while working on a fence intended to cover nearly all of the disputed 2,500km border separating the countries, the Pakistani military said on Sunday.

Though security has improved in Pakistan's remote areas bordering Afghanistan, sectarian militant attacks, primarily targeting Shia Muslims, still occur. "Pakistani troops are exercising