

'Tripartite Aggression Gives Terrorism Opportunity to Re-Emerge'

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari reiterated that the tripartite U.S.-British-French aggression on Syria will have negative impacts on the security and stability in the region and will give terrorism an opportunity to re-emerge again.

According to statement of the Iraqi Foreign Minister's Office, al-Jaafari's remarks came during a phone call received from acting United States Secretary of State John Sullivan on Sunday, SANA reported.

When you have to depart from this world and have to meet death (eventually), then why wish delay (why feel nervous about death).

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

President Assad:

Western Strikes on Syria Act of Aggression



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (C-R) meets with Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Andrei Turchak and accompanying parliamentarians in the Syrian capital, Damascus, on April 15, 2018.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad told a group of Russian lawmakers on Sunday that Western missile strikes on his country were an act of aggression.

The meeting followed missile strikes by the United States, France and Britain against Syrian government targets over a suspected poison gas attack a week ago.

Russia, which is helping Assad fight terrorists, immediately condemned the strikes and called for an emergency

meeting of the UN Security Council. "From the point of view of the president, this was aggression and we share this position," Russia's TASS news agency quoted lawmaker Sergei Zheleznyak as saying after the meeting with Assad in the Syrian capital Damascus.

The president was in a "good mood" and continuing his work in Damascus, agencies cited the lawmakers as saying, and praised the Soviet-era air defense systems Syria used to help to

repel the Western attacks.

"The tripartite aggression against Syria accompanied a campaign of disinformation," Assad's office quoted him as saying on Sunday. Moscow and Damascus are "waging one battle, not only against terrorism" but also to protect the sovereignty of states, he told the Russian officials.

Meanwhile, the General Command of the Syrian Army and Armed Forces announced that Eastern Ghouta in the Damascus Countryside is now

completely terrorism-free following two months of operations in the region.

"Following a number of concentrated and powerful military operations in the past week, units from our brave armed forces and its allies managed to cleanse Eastern Ghouta in all its neighborhoods and (surrounding) villages, from the armed terrorist organizations after driving out all terrorists from the city of Douma, the final base for terrorists in Eastern Ghouta," said a statement released by the military late on Saturday.

Recently, Moscow brokered an agreement between the terrorists based in Eastern Ghouta and the Syrian government, enabling the former's safe exit to Jarabulus, a terrorist-held town in northern Syria.

Russia said hundreds of Jaish al-Islam terrorists and their families had left Douma, according to the deal.

"At the same time we are resisting with our air defense capabilities to the tripartite aggression which was staged by the United States of America, France and Britain against numerous targets in Syria," added that statement.

Early on Saturday, the American military, in collaboration with Britain and France, carried out what it routinely describes 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.

Zionist Regime Destroys Tunnel in Gaza



Palestinians gather during clashes with Zionist troops, east of Jabaliya in the northern Gaza city, on April 13, 2018.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's military has destroyed a lifeline tunnel from the northern part of the besieged Gaza Strip more than a fortnight after the start of anti-occupation protests along the border between the besieged and impoverished Palestinian coastal sliver and occupied territories.

The regime's military spokesman Jonathan Conricus told journalists on Sunday that the tunnel, which was still under construction, belonged to Hamas resistance movement and infiltrated into the heart of occupied Palestinian territories.

It started in Jabaliya city, located 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) north of Gaza City, and was being dug in the direction of the Nahal Oz community, Conricus added.

"We filled the tunnel with material that renders it useless for a very long period of time," he added.

"According to our early assessments, this tunnel reaches kilometers, several kilometers, into the Gaza Strip," Conricus said.

The Zionist military official further noted that it was the fifth Gazan tunnel destroyed in recent months.

Zionist war minister Avigdor Lieberman said it was the longest and deepest Gazan tunnel discovered by Zionist troops.

The report comes amid protests along the Gaza border since March 30, which have led to clashes with Zionist troops in which at least 34 Palestinians have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries.

The Palestinian rally, dubbed the "Great March of Return," will last until May 15, which coincides with the 70th anniversary of Nakba Day (Day of Catastrophe) on which Israel was created.

Every year on May 15, Palestinians all over the world hold demonstrations to commemorate Nakba Day, which marks the anniversary of the forcible eviction of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland by Israelis in 1948.

More than 760,000 Palestinians - now estimated to number nearly five million with their descendants - were driven out of their homes on May 14, 1948.

Since 1948, the occupying regime has denied Palestinian refugees the right to return, despite UN resolutions and international law that upholds people's right to return to their homelands.

This year's Land Day demonstrations appear especially combustible as Palestinian anger is already high over Trump's decision in December 2017 to recognize al-Quds as Israel's "capital."

Turkish Forces Replacing Local Population in Afrin With Ghouta Comrades

ANKARA (Dispatches) – The Turkish-backed militants on Sunday prevented civilians from entering their own houses in the Turkey-occupied Afrin region to settle the al-Nusra-affiliated Faylaq al-Rahman terrorists who have arrived from Eastern Ghouta in the town.

Militants of Jaish al-Sharqiyyeh affiliated to the Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) stormed residents of the town of Jandaris in southern Afrin after they called on the militants to allow them to live in their houses that had been

occupied by Faylaq al-Rahman militants.

Faylaq al-Rahman is affiliated to the al-Nusra Front that is backed by Turkey. Yet, the Turkey-backed militants have treated other terrorist groups like so-called Jaish al-Islam that are backed by Saudi Arabia differently, forcing them to surrender their weapons and stay in camps.

Meanwhile, the London-based pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that the Turkish army and allied militants started

detaining civilians in Afrin region after the Ankara forces looted their assets, and further demanded ransom for their release.

SOHR further said that talks are underway between the Turkish intelligence and Faylaq al-Rahman commanders to be relocated to Afrin and its countryside.

A main group of Faylaq militants and their family members left Eastern Ghouta for Northern Syria a couple of days ago.

The Kurdish-language Hawar news reported last week that the Kurdish militants stormed one

of the positions of the Turkish soldiers in the central part of the town of Afrin, killing an Ankara-backed gunman and wounding two Turkish army soldiers.

It added that a key position of the Turkish army was destroyed in the Kurdish fighters' attack in the village of Kafr Safreh in Jandaris region, leaving three Turkey-backed gunmen dead and two more wounded.

The entire Afrin region has been occupied by the Turkish troops and Ankara-backed militants.

Power Outage Hits Kabul After Militants Attack Pylon

KABUL (AFP) – A massive power outage in Kabul has left many residents of the Afghan capital with no lights or running water, officials said Sunday, after militants blew up an electricity pylon in the restive north.

A pre-dawn attack Saturday on a transmission tower in Baghlan province left Kabul with 95 megawatts, less than a quarter of its normal power supply, said Wahid Tawhidi, a spokesman for power utility Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS).

Efforts to repair the pylon had so far failed as heavy fighting prevented

a local DABS crew from reaching the site, Tawhidi told AFP.

"Today when our team tried to go to the area, rockets were fired at their vehicles and they had to turn back," he said.

The provincial governor's spokesman Mahmood Haqmal said Taliban fighters had used a mine to "bring down" the power line.

"They have escaped the area but some of them are still in the mountains, preventing engineers from fixing the pylon," Haqmal told AFP.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah

Mujahid told AFP that the militant group had "cut a cable in Baghlan province".

This is the fourth outage in recent weeks caused by militant attacks on the power line transmitting electricity from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. It has also affected neighboring Nangarhar and Parwan provinces, Tawhidi said.

The Taliban warned last month that they would continue to cut power to Kabul unless their demands for electricity in areas under their control in Baghlan and Kunduz provinces were met.

Residents in Kabul have been forced to make do with just an hour of electricity a day, sparking a firestorm of complaints on social media.

"We had one minute of electricity then no electricity the whole day. What kind of electricity this is?" Ahmad Zia Jamal wrote on Facebook.

Another Facebook user, Shabnam Khurasani, posted: "Power cuts in Kabul are intolerable."

The bulk of Afghanistan's electricity comes from neighboring countries but the amount is insufficient to meet demand.

Airport Standoff Escalates Tensions Between UAE, Somalia

ABU DHABI (Press TV) – Recent tensions between the United Arab Emirates and Somalia over Emirati relations with a breakaway Somali region have escalated following an incident in which a flight carrying Emirati military trainers was held for hours at an airport in Somalia.

The standoff began on Saturday when Emirati military trainers on board a plane at Bosaso International Airport in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland refused to allow checks of their suspiciously "heavy" baggage.

The refusal by the Emiratis resulted in hours of a delay imposed on the plane by Somali authorities.

According to local reports, the Emiratis eventually agreed to allow airport security forces to check their baggage, and authorities then allowed the plane to depart.

It was not clear what the baggage contained.

The incident coincided with a similar one at Bosaso seaport, where a UAE-flagged ship was disallowed to dock at the port.

In a separate incident last week, the Somali federal government seized

\$9.6 million dollars in sealed bags from a UAE Royal Jet at Mogadishu International Airport. The Emirati government condemned the state confiscation, calling the move "illegal."

The Somali government, in response, complained that the UAE aimed to destabilize Somalia.

Relations between Somalia and the oil-rich Persian Gulf state have been deteriorating since the UAE began to operate a major port in Somalia's breakaway territory of Somaliland.

UAE leaders have invited officials from the autonomous region, suggesting that the country is moving toward officially recognizing Somaliland's self-declared independence.

Somaliland is in the strategic Bab al-Mandeb area, located across from Yemen, where the tiny Emirates has invaded as part of a Saudi-led coalition.

Somalia's internationally-backed government is reportedly planning to file a legal complaint against the UAE for setting up a military base in the unrecognized breakaway Somaliland.