

UN Voices Concern About Insufficient Food Imports to Yemen

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) – UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock has expressed concern about insufficient commercial imports, particularly food, to Yemen.

“We remain very concerned about commercial imports through all of Yemen’s ports, most particularly (the Red Sea ports of) Hudaydah and Saleef,” Lowcock told the Security Council.

Before the war, Yemen relied on imports to cover 90 percent of staple food and nearly all its medicine and fuel needs, he said. “Commercial shortages and delays at ports have led to sharp increase in the price of food and household necessities. Ports are the lifeline of Yemen.”

Meanwhile, UN envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths says he will present a plan to the UN Security Council for resumption of peace talks between the warring parties in Yemen.

“My plan is to put to the council within the next two months a frame-

work for negotiations,” Griffiths said at his first meeting at the Security Council since he assumed the position in March.

The UN envoy noted that a political solution to the conflict in Yemen is available, adding that both Houthi Ansarullah movement and the faction of former Yemeni president Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi have expressed “constructive attitudes” and their desire for peace talks.

“A negotiated political settlement through inclusive intra-Yemeni dialogue is the only way to end the ongoing humanitarian crisis,” he added.

The Saudi aggression was launched in March 2015 in support of Yemen’s former Riyadh-friendly government of president Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and against the country’s Houthi Ansarullah movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective administration.

The offensive has, however,



Picture taken on March 18, 2018 shows a Yemeni child looking out from behind a wall damaged in an airstrike in the southern city of Ta’izz.

achieved neither of its goals despite the spending of billions of petrodollars and the enlisting of Saudi Arabia’s regional and Western allies.

The Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights announced in a statement on March 25 that the Saudi-led war had left 600,000 civilians dead and injured during the past three years.

The United Nations says a record 22.2 million people are in need of food aid, including 8.4 million threatened by severe hunger. A high-ranking UN aid official recently warned against the “catastrophic” living conditions in Yemen, stating that there was a growing risk of famine and cholera there.

Syrian Army Troops Clash With Terrorists in Eastern Qalamoun



A Syrian woman carries the portrait of President Bashar al-Assad at the Umayyad Square in Damascus on April 14, 2018, during a protest against strikes by the United States, Britain and France.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian Army and Air Force started to target terrorists’ positions in Eastern Qalamoun in the

northeastern part of Damascus province after the terrorists refused to join the reconciliation agreement and opened fire at the government

forces on Wednesday.

The so-called Jaish al-Islam terrorists group announced in a statement that it has refused to join talks with the Russian forces over a ceasefire and reconciliation agreement in Eastern Qalamoun.

The terrorists further opened fire at the negotiating committee in Jayroud region in Eastern Qalamoun, injuring some of the committee members.

Also, the terrorists of Jaish Tahrir al-Sham and Ahmad Abdu terrorist groups stormed the army positions in al-Muhassa region.

Later, the army’s artillery and missile units pounded terrorists’ centers in Mount al-Batra in Eastern Qalamoun and regions near the town of al-Nasiriyeh.

In the meantime, the army aircraft launch heavy airstrikes on

terrorists’ positions in al-Jabal region in Eastern Qalamoun.

In a similar development the army troops repelled the terrorists’ heavy attack on Eastern Qalamoun region after an agreement between the army and terrorists in al-Dumayr came into force.

The army men engaged in fierce clashes with a group of terrorists in al-Mahasa region between the administrative border of Eastern Qalamoun and Homs province and repelled their attack, killing or wounding a number of terrorists.

Military analysts believe that the attack launched by Ahmad Abdu gunmen and Jeish Tahrir al-Sham was actually a coup to disturb the newly-agreed reconciliation agreement between the army and the terrorists in al-Dumayr region.

Zionist Regime’s Violence Against Palestinians Slammed

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – UN human rights experts have slammed the Zionist regime’s troops for killing Palestinians near the Gaza fence by using firearms, including live ammunition.

“UN human rights experts have condemned the continued use of firearms, including live ammunition, by Israeli security forces against mostly unarmed Palestinian protesters and observers for a third straight week near the fence between occupied Gaza and Israel,” the experts said in a statement, World News reported.

The UN and its independent human rights experts, along with the International Criminal Court, have expressed grave concern about the regime’s troops’ use of force, calling for an end to the violence.

“Despite Israel’s commitment to investigate the events of the past few weeks, security forces continue to use live ammunition and rubber bullets against the protesters, killing and wounding dozens of mostly unarmed protesters, women, men and children alike,” it added

“We express our outrage over these shootings that may have resulted in unlawful killings and the incomprehensibly high number of injuries sustained,” the statement read. More than 30 Palestinians have been killed

and thousands of other wounded by Zionist troops during a series of demonstrations that began on March 30 and are set to continue until May 15. Thousands of Palestinians launched the Great March of Return in the besieged Gaza Strip to demand their right of return to their villages and towns they were forcibly displaced from in 1948.

The peaceful protests began on March 30, which coincided with the 42nd anniversary of the Land Day, which marks the day Zionist troops killed six Palestinians during protests against land confiscation in 1976.

The 46-day mass protests are expected to continue until May 15, which marks the 70th anniversary of the Nakba (catastrophe), in which over 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes in 1948.

Despite ongoing international condemnation, the regime continues to use lethal force in suppressing the protesters, who are unarmed and are vulnerable in the face of the heavily armed Israeli soldiers stationed at the borders.

The occupying regime had previously deployed military vehicles and special forces, including 100 snipers, to Gaza’s border, while the regime’s forces had also been authorized to shoot at the demonstrators.

Iraqi Forces Launch Operation to Hunt Down Daesh Remnants in Salahudin

TIKRIT (Dispatches) – Iraqi security forces Wednesday launched an operation to hunt down remnants of Daesh terrorists, in mountainous area in Iraq’s central province of Salahudin, a provincial security source said.

A joint force from the Iraqi army, police and paramilitary Hashd Shaabi brigades advanced in the morning to Makhoul mountain range and nearby Khanouqah hills in the northern part of Salahudin province to chase Daesh terrorists who repeatedly carried out attacks against civilians and Iraqi security forces in the area, Colonel Mohammed Khalaf from Salahudin provincial police told Xinhua.

The troops, backed by helicopter gunships and artillery, cleared large areas and pounded suspected hideouts of Daesh terrorists, Khalaf said.

The troops found four bodies of the terrorists and seized caches of weapons and ammunition, including explosive belts and other equipment, Khalaf added.

Khalaf also said that a soldier was killed in a roadside bomb explosion while operating in Khanouqah hills.

The operation came six days after bomb attacks by Daesh terrorists on mourners at the cemetery of Sdeira al-Sufilah, a village in east of the town of Shirqat, some 280 km north

of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, which killed 10 mourners and wounded 14 others.

The mourners were gathering at the cemetery to bury four villagers who were also killed earlier by Daesh bomb attacks.

The attacks came despite repeated operations by Iraqi security forces to clear the areas around Shirqat of the remnants of Daesh terrorists.

During the past few months, dozens of Daesh terrorists fled their former urban strongholds in Mosul, Salahudin province and Hawijah area in the west of Kirkuk after the Iraqi forces cleared these areas through major anti-Daesh offensives.

Leader...

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Ayatollah Khamenei further said long-term planning with a projection of future events, and an accurate analysis of information is one of the ways for the intelligence establishment to confront the designs of the opposite front.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei said fighting corruption must be taken “very seriously and its main arteries targeted, because corruption leads to moral and psychological breakdown and collapse of individuals and the society”.

Corruption, the Leader said, is rooted in the spirit of wanting more, aristocracy and worship of luxury.

“Officials in the Islamic system cannot take it for granted that because authorities in other countries have various facilities, such cases are possible in the Islamic system.”

Iran...

(Continued From Page One)

on Iran over its ballistic missiles and its advisory role in Syria’s war, in a purported bid to persuade U.S. President Donald Trump to preserve the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran.

Trump has delivered an ultimatum to the European signatories to fix what he saw as the “terrible flaws” of the deal, threatening to refuse to extend U.S. sanctions relief on Iran.

U.S. sanctions will resume unless Trump issues fresh “waivers” to suspend them on May 12.

Rouhani stressed the peaceful nature of Iran’s defense program, saying the country has no intention to invade other countries or harm their interests.

“We want friendly and brotherly relations with our neighbors and we tell them that our weapons, our equipment, our missiles, our planes, our tanks are not against you, it is for deterrence,” said Rouhani.

“The only way to resolve problems is political negotiation and peaceful behavior,” he added.

The president hit out at the West for flooding the region with weapons with the aim of plundering its resources and harming the regional nations.

“Your weapons could neither bring independence for regional countries nor frighten great nations like Iran,” Rouhani said.

At the parade held near the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini in southern Tehran, armed forces displayed their new defense achievements, advanced military equipment and hardware.

It marked the unveiling of Iran’s latest domestically manufactured missile system called Kamin-2, a portable weapon designed to target enemy drones flying in low altitudes.

Among other defense hardware put on display were the country’s S-300, S-200, Tabas and Sayyad defense systems, as well as radars, tanks, armored vehicles and sniper rifles.

Similar events were held across the country, including in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman where Iran’s warships and destroyers sailed in the strategic waters in a show of power.

UAE ...

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“Survivors have described to UNHCR being shot at, regular beatings, rapes of adults and children, humiliations including forced nudity, being forced to witness summary executions, and denial of food.”

HRW also accused Yemen’s Houthi movement of arbitrarily detaining refugees in poor conditions and failing to provide access to asylum and protection procedures in the port city of Hudaydah.

The Houthi movement has been running state affairs and defending Yemen against the Saudi-led aggression, which is meant to reinstall the former Riyadh-friendly administration.

Yemen’s southern regions are mostly controlled by UAE-backed militants loyal to the former government.

Those areas have become a fertile ground for smugglers who vow to transfer refugees from the region to wealthier Arab states in the Persian Gulf. Most of them, however, leave the refugees at sea.

The United Arab Emirates is Saudi Arabia’s key partner in its deadly war against Yemen, which has so far killed and wounded some 600,000 people, according to the latest figures.

Besides playing a significant part in aerial assaults and deploying troops to Yemen, Abu Dhabi has been training the pro-Saudi militants fighting on the ground against Yemeni armed forces.

The UAE also stands accused of running secret jails in southern Yemen, where the detainees are said to be facing brutal torture and abuse.

Sudan...

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Tension between Cairo and Khartoum rose particularly since last year after Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir accused Egyptian intelligence services of supporting opposition figures fighting his troops in the country’s conflict zones like Darfur.

Ties between the two were further strained after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Khartoum earlier this year.

Turkey and Egypt have tense relations since the Egyptian military ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013, a close ally of Erdogan.

In recent months tension also rose between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia over a controversial dam that Ethiopia is building along its share of the Nile. Cairo fears that once commissioned the dam will reduce water supplies from the Nile to Egypt.

Egypt relies almost totally on the Nile for irrigation and drinking water, and says it has “historic rights” to the river, guaranteed by treaties from 1929 and 1959.

The Blue and the White Nile tributaries converge in Sudan’s capital Khartoum and from there run north through Egypt to the Mediterranean.