

# ‘We Can Go Far With Israeli Money, Saudi Brains’

RIYADH (Dispatches) – A former Saudi intelligence chief and ex-ambassador to the U.S. has given an unprecedented interview to an Israeli TV channel that was broadcast just hours after Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with the Omani foreign minister in Poland to discuss a new era for the Middle East.

In an interview with Israel’s Channel 13 news, Saudi Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud said that Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime have the funds and political means to work together provided that they reach a so-called lasting peace first.

“With Israeli money and Saudi brains, we can go far. Yes, if there is peace. Unfortunately, Israel chooses to ignore all the efforts of Saudi Arabia to make peace, expects Saudi Arabia to put its hand on its hand and go forward on technology, on water desalination, on issues like that. It’s not going to happen”, Prince Turki, who served as ambassador to the United States, said.

The 74-year-old prince said he had never been to al-Quds and looked forward “to the day



*Demonstrators protest before Zionist troops in the West Bank village of Nabi Salih.*

when there is peace between Israel and the Arab world, and I can visit what I consider to be not only a holy place, but a place of my history as an Arab and as a Muslim. [...] Jerusalem (al-Quds) is something I want to see before I die. Unfortunately, I’m not too optimistic that I’m going to see that”.

“Basically it’s a quid pro quo: Israel withdraws from occupied Arab territories, in return for Arab recognition of Israel, end of hostilities and normal relations,” Faisal said, doubting

that Riyadh and Tel Aviv could reach an agreement during his lifetime.

The 73-year-old said he had been to al-Quds and would love to visit the city if Netanyahu and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sit down for negotiations after resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

“In my lifetime — and there’s very little of it left to come — I don’t think I’m going to see that. Not before the Palestinian issue is resolved. I am looking for an Israeli peace initiative. I

haven’t seen one. What is it that Israel thinks will make peace?”

He accused Netanyahu of trying to appeal to voters by claiming that ties with the Arab world could be warmed without resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Turki dismissed as “wishful thinking” what some media reports had claimed about possible division between bin Salman and his father on the issue.

The crown prince “supports the Palestinian cause to the fullest,” he said, adding MbS had no differences with his father “on any issue. He does what the king tells him.”

It is no secret that Israel and Saudi Arabia have long been working quietly over security issues and have already established a mutual understanding to respect their regional interests.

In October 2017, former Zionist spymaster Efraim Halevy, who led the regime’s Mossad at the turn of the century, sat down for a meeting with Turki bin Faisal, who headed Saudi Arabia’s intelligence agency for 24 years.

## Warsaw...

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coincidental that terrorists attacked on the same day that the anti-Iran summit organized by the United States kicked off in Poland.

Messages of condemnation and condolences have poured in from across the world but the U.S. and its Arab allies in the Persian Gulf have remained silent.

On Thursday, the United Nations Security Council condemned “in the strongest terms” the “heinous and cowardly” attack as it expressed sympathy with the Iranian government and families of the victims.

“Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security,” reaffirmed the council.

It also underlined the need to hold “perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.”

The council further urged all states “to cooperate actively” with the Iranian government to combat “by all means” threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

## Netanyahu ...

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Organization’s Executive Committee, called it “an attempt to bypass” the Arab Peace Initiative.

Former Saudi foreign minister Adel Al-Jubeir, who represented Riyadh in the conference, tweeted after the summit that he had spoken in support of the 2002 initiative.

However, U.S. special envoy Jared Kushner confirmed Thursday that President Donald Trump’s peace plan won’t be based on the 2002 Saudi initiative.

Netanyahu told reporters that the opening dinner Wednesday night of the conference marked “a historical turning point”.

“Netanyahu has the right to post joyful tweets and proudly talk of standing by his Arab brothers on the same boat to counter the threat of Iran, but we are sure the joy will not last long, as those who have chosen to be his friend and elected him as their leader do not represent the Arab-Islamic values or even their own nations,” Atwan wrote.

“We do not know how those participating in the summit want to face their own nations, but we are sure the moment they elect Netanyahu as the leader of their new coalition, they will turn Iran into the symbol of resistance and defense of Arab-Islamic societies and their sanctities.”

## Russia...

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Rouhani said Thursday’s talks were “very helpful and frank” and insisted on Syria’s territorial integrity, calling for a “purge of terrorists” from the terrorist-held northwestern province of Idlib.

He also suggested he did not believe the U.S. was planning to withdraw from Syria. “We have no optimism about what the Americans say... but if they do withdraw, it will be very good news.”

At a separate meeting Thursday with Putin, Erdogan said the planned U.S. pullout made it more important for other foreign powers to work together in Syria.

“The U.S. withdrawal decision is one of the most important tests ahead of us. The uncertainty over how the decision will be implemented remains. It is very very important that we work together in this new situation,” he said.

Erdogan also called for the removal of the Kurdish forces northeastern Syria.

Thursday’s meeting was the fourth summit between the countries’ presidents since November 2017.

For decades, the U.S. could count on Turkey as a reliable partner that would line up with other allies against Iran and support Washington’s strategic goals. But the political landscape has changed, U.S. influence in the region is in doubt, and Ankara is staking out an independent course, said Colin Clarke, senior research fellow at the Soufan Center, a New York-based think tank.

“I think we’re seeing a realignment,” Clarke told NBC News. “The U.S. has gone from the position where we called the shots, to where we are making mere suggestions to Turkey. That’s a major sea change.”

The conflict in Syria has opened up the most dramatic divide between the two countries, with Ankara infuriated at Washington’s support for Kurdish forces in Syria, which it sees as a terrorist threat.

“The real power brokers in Syria are Iran and Russia,” said Ilan Goldenberg, a former senior official under the Obama administration and now a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a think tank.

When the conflict erupted in Syria in

2011, Erdogan had hoped to see Assad fall. But Turkey has since come to accept that Assad is firmly in place, and that Russia and Iran will be needed to prevent a Kurdish state forming on Turkey’s southern border, said Aykan Erdemir, a member of the Turkish parliament from 2011-2015.

“Turkey realizes it has lost in Syria. And the Kurdish issue has always been the top priority for Turkey,” said Erdemir, now a fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a hawkish think tank. And that “means you have to work with Russia,” he said.

Like Russia, Turkey has opposed the Trump administration’s hardline on Iran, and Erdogan has threatened to defy the U.S. sanctions reimposed on Tehran, calling them an “imperial” policy.

## Drone...

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said at the time of the attack that the airport halted both incoming and outgoing flights.

He warned back then that the army will target the infrastructure of countries that have colluded in the aggression against Yemen in future attacks.

The war on Yemen has killed some 56,000 people, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. More than 2,200 others have died of cholera, and the crisis has triggered what the United Nations has described as the world’s worst humanitarian disaster.

## It Would...

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summit in the Russian city of Sochi to discuss the war in Syria.

The U.S.-led conference in Warsaw was initially intended to coalesce support around Washington’s desire to contain Iran, but the event was later broadened to cover the wider Middle East after some countries balked at the initial pitch, three foreign diplomats told NBC News.

Zarif said the Warsaw meeting was a “huge failure” because it showed how “totally, totally isolated in the world” the U.S. has become over Iran.

Asked whether Iran was open to revisiting the 2015 nuclear deal, Zarif said he saw no reason to do this because the original agreement was so complex and painstakingly negotiated.

“The nuclear deal was the result of 13 years of negotiations,” he said. “We produced not the two-page document that President Trump signed with the chairman of North Korea but a 150-page document,” he added, referring to Trump’s accord with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un last year that was widely criticized for being too brief and vague.

Zarif pointed to agreements the Trump administration has pulled out of, such as the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Paris Climate Agreement. “You name it, they’ve withdrawn from it,” he said.

Though supportive of the nuclear deal, the European Union last month slapped sanctions on Iran’s Intelligence and Security Ministry and two Iranian nationals over accusations of orchestrating assassinations on European soil.

On Friday, Zarif reiterated Iran’s previous denials of this charge. “If you look at those allegations you will see false flags everywhere,” he said.

Another source of friction between the West and Iran is Syria, where Tehran is allied with the regime of President Bashar al Assad as well as Russia.

The U.S. is planning to withdraw its 2,000 troops within months. That doesn’t mean that the pro-Syria coalition is declaring victory, Zarif said.

“Everybody lost, the people of Syria lost,” he said. But “most of the bloodshed has ended, and that’s a major accomplishment.”

He called on the U.S. and the rest of the world to support the summit in Sochi, calling it “the only peace game in town.”

“I hope the rest of the world will come to realize that our gain will not be their loss, if we gain in ending this war,” he said.

## NYT:...

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It did not take much, according to officials from both the Bush and Obama administrations. Flight disruption could take no more than a small design change in a critical valve, a modest alteration in an engine part or guidance system, or a contaminated alloy for making launcher fins, crucial for aerodynamic stability.

American military officials urged Congress to put more money into programs they obliquely hailed in open testimony as “left of launch” techniques — so called because they rely on sabotaging launchers before they are fired.

## Danish ‘Courage Award’ Granted to Anti-Zionist Movement

COPENHAGEN (Dispatches) – Copenhagen Mayor for Technology and Environment Ninna Hedeager Olsen has ‘proudly’ awarded a prize for courage to three activists from the anti-Israel movement BDS at Copenhagen City Hall, the Danish newspaper Berlingske reported.

BDS (which stands for Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) is billed as a “Palestinian-led global movement for freedom, justice, and equality”. Much of its work is to encourage boycott

of Israeli goods and companies. The movement is also working against illegal Zionist settlements.

Ronnie Barkan, Majed Abusalama, and Stavit Sinai received the Copenhagen Courageous Award for “having worked tirelessly to reveal the apartheid-like nature of the Israeli regime and its systematic violation of international law”.

The three BDS members were reportedly charged with assault and illegal intrusion during a

speech by Zionist politician Aliza Lavie at Humboldt University in Berlin on 20 June 2017 and have since been known as “the Humboldt three”.

During the ceremony, Ninna Hedeager Olsen allegedly said that “the world needs such courageous activists”, stressing that it is a special honor to welcome them to the city, the newspaper reported.

Jakob Næsager, Conservative Party group chairman at Copenhagen City Hall, was shocked

by the award.

The Copenhagen Courageous Award is a private initiative led by members of the Red-Green Alliance party. Ulrik Kohl, one of the members of its “ad hoc committee”, stressed that Ninna Hedeager Olsen was invited to award the prize not as a mayor, but as a private person, yet also as an important voice in Danish politics. By his own admission, he was pleased that the occasion took place at City Hall to highlight its importance.

## Shanahan:

## U.S. to Pull Out Forces From Afghanistan Only With Other Allies

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The United States will not carry out a unilateral reduction of its troops in Afghanistan, acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said at a news conference after a meeting of ministers from the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) in Brussels.

“There will be no unilateral troop reduction, it will be coordinated,” he told reporters following a meeting of NATO defense ministers. “We came out of here much stronger and coordinated.”

In late January, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani vowed to try to remove all foreign troops from the country. In addition, an agreement on the possible withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Afghanistan was reportedly reached during recent talks between the United States and Taliban in Qatar.

The movement, for its part, pledged to prevent terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda from using Afghanistan as a base to carry out operations in other countries under the future deal.

Last month, protesters marched in three cities in southern and eastern Afghanistan to call for a ceasefire and an end to the U.S.-led war in the country.

The Thursday marches took place in Kandahar, the southern cradle of the Taliban, and in the eastern cities of Khost and Jalalabad.

The participants held placards and chanted slogans such as “No

War”, “We want ceasefire” and “We want Peace.”

Bismillah Watandost, a member of the People for Peace Movement, urged the Taliban to respond to a truce offer proposed by the Afghan government last year.

“Afghans want an absolute ceasefire as soon as possible. The government had agreed a one-year ceasefire and the Taliban must accept their demand.”

Haji Farhad, a protester in Jalalabad, said that people of Afghanistan had been fed up with the ongoing war and violence.

“We call on the Taliban to come to the peace talks with the Afghan government and have mercy on the Afghan people. Our men, women, children and widows want peace. We are tired of war.”

In recent months, the war-weary grassroots peace movement in Afghanistan has organized a series of sit-ins and a hunger strike demanding that both the government and the Taliban implement a ceasefire.

In May 2018, the peace marches began when a handful of civilians traveled 700 kilometers from Lashkar Gah in the southern province of Helmand to end their journey in the capital Kabul.

Since then, many others have been organized, including a wheelchair peace march by amputees between the western city of Herat and Kabul.

cussed by the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee for 60 days before being put to a national referendum, likely to be held this spring before the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Previously, the 2014 Egyptian constitution stated that the president, who is the head of

state and head of the executive, could only be re-elected once.

Sisi, who came into power following the turmoil of the Arab Spring in Egypt, has been the president of the country since June 2014 and was re-elected in 2018 with 97 percent of the vote.