

'No Just Solution Without al-Quds as Palestinian Capital'

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestinians will not accept any solution for settling the Palestinian-Zionist conflict without al-Quds being the capital of Palestine, the Palestinian presidency said Tuesday. Any attempt to circumvent the Arab Peace Initiative and legitimate international resolutions by proposing vague ideas or slogans is doomed to fail, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh said in a statement published by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA. The Palestinians will not accept it without establishing an independent Palestinian state with East al-Quds as its capital on the 1967 borders and a just solution to the refugee

issue, it said. Al-Quds will be the key to peace, security and stability in the region and the world, it said. The statement came amid media reports on the "century deal" to be presented by U.S. President Donald Trump to end the Palestinian-Zionist conflict without seeking the acceptance of the Palestinian Authority. Ties between Palestine and the United States have witnessed rising tensions since last December, when Trump announced to recognize al-Quds as the Zionist regime's "capital" and ordered the relocation of the U.S. embassy to the city. On Feb. 20, speaking before the UN Security Council, Abbas proposed to hold an international



Palestinian women wave Palestinian flags and flash the victory sign during a protest near the so-called buffer zone with the occupied territories east of Jabalia, in the Gaza strip, on March 30, 2018.

peace conference in mid-2018 on the two-state solution and for final status negotiations based international resolutions.

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In his own speech to the forum, Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Reza Najafi took on Trump directly, rejecting what he described as Washington's "ultimatum to certain JCPOA participants for one-sided alterations of the deal's provisions." "Our response to that threat is clear and firm: No, the JCPOA will not be renegotiated or altered," Najafi said, echoing a stance adopted by Tehran after Trump first raised the prospects of re-visiting a pact negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama. The joint Russia-China text was introduced at the UN meeting after Moscow's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov vowed in Beijing Monday that China and Russia would block any attempts to "sabotage" the Iran nuclear agreement. During a first day of discussions on the NPT in Geneva Monday, a long line of speakers had voiced their support for the Iran deal, including the UN's top representative for disarmament affairs Izumi Nakamitsu. European leaders are also scrambling the save the deal. French President Emmanuel Macron is in Washington this week lobbying Trump to preserve the pact, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel due in the U.S. capital Friday. Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said the U.S. under Trump has violated almost all of its commitments as part of the 2015 nuclear deal, and that Washington's withdrawal would only set Iran free of any obligation to stay in the accord. "If the United States officially withdraws from the JCPOA, the immediate implication would be that it would free Iran of any obligation to remain in the JCPOA," Zarif told the National Interest on Monday. He said the Trump administration "has really not been a part of the JCPOA, has violated almost every U.S. commitment under the JCPOA, so we've had almost sixteen months of a trial period for official withdrawal." Zarif said quitting the NPT could be an option for Iran in case Trump scraps the accord. "That's not, certainly, the government's position. But we have very active public opinion and we have always been responsive to public opinion. But what I see in the cards as the first stage of our response to U.S. official withdrawal would be to contemplate also withdrawing from the JCPOA," he said.

occupation, dubbed the Great March of Return, earlier this month. The shootings prompted international outcry after it emerged Israeli snipers who shot Palestinians had positioned themselves alongside the Gaza security fence, with orders allowing them to shoot unarmed Palestinians who came within 100 yards. The violence prompted Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn to call for a review of arms sales to the occupying regime of Israel in a message condemning its "illegal and inhumane" killing and wounding of "yet more unarmed Palestinian protesters". Corbyn also called for the UK to support calls for an "independent and transparent" UN inquiry into the shootings and called for a review of the sale of UK-made arms that "could be used in violation of international law". Andrew Smith, a spokesman for CAAT, told MEE: "There is little doubt that UK equipment has been used against the people of Gaza time and again, but that hasn't stopped successive governments from licensing even more arms to the Israeli military. "The appalling scenes we have seen over recent weeks are yet another stark reminder of the repression and abuse that Palestinians are living under every day. The response to protests hasn't just been heavy-handed, it has been a massacre. "By continuing to arm Israeli forces the UK isn't just making itself complicit in future attacks, it is sending a message of support for the collective punishment that has been inflicted. "The situation is desperate, and the UK should be working for a peaceful and just solution, not pushing arms sales which can be used in abuses for years to come."

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In the past few years, the extreme ideologies and terrorist groups have been the greatest threats to peace and security, with the youth being their prime victims and targets of recruitment. Poverty, ignorance, injustice, apartheid policies, occupation, armed conflict situations, marginalization and exclusion are the main factors that increase the youth vulnerability and make them an easy target for radicalization and recruitment. Recent pervasive xenophobic attitude bordering on racism in some countries is another major challenge that increases the youth alienation everywhere in our world that is inter-connected through such different means as migration and new communication technologies. Such tendencies provide breeding grounds for resentment, dispute and conflict. To prevent the youth marginalization and radicalization, we have no choice other than trying to encourage tolerance, invest on education and awareness raising, alleviate poverty, end discrimination, liberate the lands under occupation, especially the Palestinian land, and address effectively conflict situations. Moreover, enhanced civic education as well as dialogue within and among communities and nations have an important role to play in raising our younger generation's awareness of the threat to peace and security and help foster an atmosphere of tolerance and civility. These actions are not, however, to be taken from the top. Both at the national and international levels, the youth need to be involved and encouraged to meaningfully participate in every relevant activity. Safeguarding the youth against the threats of radicalization through the abuse of modern technologies is also imperative. Online media platforms should be induced to act responsibly. They should not be a conduit for spreading extremist views and a means for recruiting among their mostly young audience. Relevant companies should be responsible and step up their control on the content exchanged through their platforms. Should they shirk their responsibility, governments have to intervene and act promptly to stop extremist online activities. Mr. President, The strategy I referred to would help empower the next generation to lead the efforts against violent and extremist views and avoid falling prey to those who seek only to aggravate those troubles and cause further devastation and chaos. In the context of Iran's unquestionable commitment to combating violent extremism, I am proud to recall that the Iranian youths have been the most immune to the propaganda and recruitment activities of terrorist and extremist groups. Let me close, Mr. President, by recalling the importance of the resolutions adopted by the 70th and 72nd General Assemblies on a World Against Violence and Violent Extremism, based on the initiative of the Iranian President, which address inter alia the imperative of empowering young people to combat violent extremism."

Turkish President Vows to Continue With Syria Operation



The photo, taken on April 20, 2018 in the Syrian city of Azaz in the northern countryside of Aleppo, shows members of a Turkish-backed militant police stopping a bus travelling in the region.

ANKARA (Press TV) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has rejected calls for his country to stop a controversial military operation in Syria, saying the fight would continue as part of Ankara's broader crackdown on Kurdish militants. "We will continue to do what is necessary for our nation's tranquility. We will also do what

military finally captured Afrin's central neighborhood after more than two months of fighting, which inflicted relatively heavy losses on its ranks. Syria, as well as the United States and several European countries who support the Kurds, have criticized the operation. Turkey, however, has vowed to press ahead with attacks on positions of the YPG, which it sees as an arm of the outlawed militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) at home, until the entire territories west of the Euphrates River and Turkey's border in the south are secured. Erdogan said the Syria operation was part of a wider effort by Turkey to go after Kurdish militants in the south of the country as well as in Iraq's mountainous Qandil region, where the PKK is based. "We will not get out from [southeastern mountains of] Cudi, Gabar, Bestler-Derele, Tendurek, and Qandil," said Erdogan, claiming that nearly 5,000 militants had been neutralized in Turkey, Iraq and Syria since the Olive Branch started on January 20. Rights groups and governments have criticized Turkey for its far-reaching crackdown against the Kurds, saying it has mostly targeted civilians instead of militants. The crackdown has come amid a wider push by Turkey to arrest or dismiss more than 200,000 people on charges of involvement in a coup attempt two years ago. Erdogan defended the crackdowns, which have come under a state of emergency in Turkey since July 2016, saying the emergency law, which was renewed for a seventh time last week, was necessary to protect tranquility in Turkey. "... there is an environment of tranquility. They (opponents) are demanding the state of emergency to be lifted in such environment," he said, adding, "Why? Because their game will be spoiled; for this reason, we will not let you subvert the order."

Zionist Troops Demolish Palestinian Inmate's Home

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops and policemen have demolished the house of a Palestinian, who is being held in custody over his alleged role in the fatal shooting of a rabbi in January. Ahmad Jamal al-Qumbaa's father told the Palestinian Wafa news agency that Zionist troops had blown up his son's residence using dynamite in the West Bank city of Jenin early on Tuesday. The Zionist troops, accompanied

by explosive experts, carried out the demolition that also damaged four nearby homes, he added. According to Qumbaa's father, clashes also broke out in Jenin, with one Palestinian being injured by a rubber bullet and several others suffering tear gas inhalation. Meanwhile, the occupying regime's army said that a policewoman had been lightly wounded during the clashes. Qumbaa was arrested a few months ago and charged with attempted murder this month over the fatal shooting of Zionist Rabbi Razieli Shevach near the West Bank city of Nablus in January. Qumbaa also faced several other counts of related offenses along with Ahmad Nassar Jarrar, the Palestinian deemed by the regime as the prime suspect in the Rabbi's murder. Jarrar was shot dead during Zionist troops' raid on a building in the northern West Bank town of al-

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Haidar said the government had for a while been dropping leaflets and communicating with militants in the terrorist-held towns of Rastan, Talbiseh and Houla in northern Homs province. "Today there is serious work in that area," he said. "Armed groups wait to feel the seriousness and determination of the state's military action before they approach serious discussion of a reconciliation agreement." Haidar said such reconciliation deals are also on offer to militants in southern Syria, where a de-escalation zone was agreed by the United States and Russia last year. "The options are open: full reconciliation or military action where necessary." But he indicated that retaking areas around Damascus and Homs - the last militant areas entirely besieged by the government - were the immediate priorities. On Friday state media said militants had surrendered in the south Damascus enclave, which includes the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp, Hajar al-Aswad district and neighboring areas. But pro-Syrian government forces were still bombarding the area by Tuesday. Haidar said the militants had subsequently refused the deal and the military option was now being used.

Yamun near Jenin in February. Qumbaa's lawyer, Fadi Qawasameh, said his client's confession was invalid as it had been obtained under duress. The Tel Aviv regime regularly demolishes the houses of Palestinians whom it accuses of attacking Zionists. International rights groups say the policy is an attempt to uproot Palestinians from their homeland, and confiscate more territories for the expansion of illegal settlements.

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However, it is the scale of small arms sales that have prompted fears UK-made sniper rifle components and targeting scopes may have been used by the Zionist military near the Gaza fence. Labor MP Richard Burden, the chairman of the British-Palestine group in Parliament, told MEE that given the risk of weapons being used for "internal repression" in Gaza and the West Bank he was "alarmed by the scale of UK arms exports to Israel in recent years". He added that he will be "pressing" ministers to launch an investigation into whether UK arms have been used in "the current Israeli military operations on the Gaza border". Palestinian officials say at least 40 people have been killed by Zionist forces since the start of a six-week protest at the Israeli

Yemen Vows to Retaliate Houthi Official Murder

SANAA (Dispatches) – Yemen's Defense Ministry has vowed a "crushing response" to the assassination of a senior official from the Houthi Ansarullah movement, saying Saudi Arabia and the U.S. will regret their "criminal adventurism." The ministry said in a statement that the Yemeni armed forces reserve the right to deal severe blows to "the aggressors and their evil coalition," who will not be safe from ballistic missiles. Saleh al-Samad, the chairman of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, lost his life in Saudi airstrikes that targeted his residence in the Red Sea port city of Hudaydah. The council was formed by the Houthi movement and the General People's Congress Party to run state affairs in the absence of an effective government in 2016, a year after the Saudi regime and a coalition of its allies began their US-backed war against the country.

The statement further said the Saudi and Emirati aggressors and their allies, along with the U.S., have passed all the red lines with their "criminal adventurism" in Yemen, without thinking about the consequences of their actions. The aggressors imagine that resistance would stop with the assassination of Yemeni officials, but they would be taught a lesson with ballistic missiles, the statement added. Yemen's top governing body has appointed Mehdi Mohammad Hussein al-Mashat as its new head. Leader of the Houthi Ansarullah movement Abdul-Malik Badreddin al-Houthi held the U.S. and Saudi Arabia responsible for Samad's killing, saying, "This crime won't go unanswered." Samad was number two on the Saudi-led coalition's most-wanted list and the alliance had offered \$20 million for any information that would lead to his capture.

Daesh Terrorist Arrested After Infiltration into Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's Internal Security Forces announced Tuesday the arrest of a Daesh terrorist in the northern town of Zgharta. The terrorist was arrested shortly after he entered Lebanon in early April as part of the ISF operation to identify and seize cadres and militants from terrorist organizations of Syria and Lebanon, the ISF media office said in a statement. The arrest was made before the suspect was able to carry out any actual activity or communication with Daesh cadres,

said the statement, which identified the militant by his initials as M.Kh, a Syrian national. During interrogation, the suspect confessed that he is a Daesh military cadre. He also said that he took military training courses and has participated in several battles as a military and field commander, mainly in attacks in the Syrian city of Palmyra. He appeared in a video footage filmed by the IS after the city fell under the IS control.