

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Yemen's army and Popular Committees fired a homegrown ballistic missile at a position of Saudi-backed mercenaries in the southwestern Taiz province in retaliation for the continued massacre of civilians by Riyadh in the impoverished Arab country. The missile force of Yemen's army and Popular Committees on Wednesday fired a Zilzal 2 ballistic missile on a gathering of Saudi-paid mercenaries in Taiz, a military official told Saba News Agency. The missile hit its target accurately in western coast front, killing dozens of the mercenaries and wounding others.

I wonder at the arrogance of a haughty and vain person. Yesterday he was only a drop of semen and tomorrow he will turn into a corpse.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

'Southern Damascus Liberated Due to Syrian Troops' Courage'



A member of the Syrian pro-government forces carries the national flag as he stands in front of damaged buildings in the Palestinian Yarmouk refugee camp on the southern outskirts of the capital Damascus on May 22, 2018.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has felicitated the liberation of neighborhoods south of the Syrian capital Damascus from the Daesh terrorist group, saying the courage and competence of government troops and allied fighters from popular defense groups made it happen.

The takeover of al-Hajar al-Aswad district, located just four kilometers (2.4 miles) south of the cen-

ter of Damascus, and the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp marks a historic victory for the anti-Zionist resistance front, which is fighting to cleanse the entire Syrian territory from the presence of terrorists, Hezbollah said in a statement released on Wednesday.

Hezbollah extended its sincere congratulations to the Syrian government and nation for the recent territorial gains.

On Monday, the General Command of the Syrian Army and Armed Forces announced in a statement that complete security was restored to Damascus and its countryside after al-Hajar al-Aswad district and al-Yarmouk camp had been totally purged of Daesh terrorists.

The development was preceded by flushing the terrorists out of the towns of Yalda, Babbila and Beit

Sahem on the southern outskirts of Damascus.

Syrian army troops and pro-government fighters had been fighting since April 19 to recapture the area covering Yarmouk camp and the adjacent districts of Qadam, Tadamun and al-Hajar al-Aswad.

In another development, Syrian army soldiers and pro-government fighters have repelled Daesh terrorist attacks on a number of military sites in the eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr near the border with Iraq.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that Daesh terrorists sought to attack army outposts on the outskirts of Mayadin town, located about 44 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital city of Dayr al-Zawr, but were confronted by units of government troops and their allies.

An unidentified number of terrorists were killed and wounded in the process, and their munitions destroyed.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

The Syrian government, backed by Russian warplanes, has managed to liberate swathes of territory it lost following the outbreak of the crisis from the control of the terrorists.

Lebanon's New Parliament Re-Elects Berri as Speaker



Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri is seen in this file photo.

BEIRUT (Press TV) – Lebanese lawmakers have re-elected Nabih Berri as parliament speaker as they convened for the first session of the legislative chamber since the May 6 elections.

Berri managed to win 98 votes in the 128-seat parliament on Wednesday.

In remarks following his re-election, Berri called for the formation of the new Lebanese government as soon as possible. "I extend my sincere thanks, for the sixth time, to the MPs for their confidence in renewing [my] responsibilities as Parliament Speaker," he said.

Berri was running unopposed for the post of parliament speaker reserved for a Shia in Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing system, under which the prime minister must be a Sunni Muslim and the president a Maronite Christian.

In a statement, Berri's office had demanded that supporters avoid celebratory gunfire after the veteran politician's re-election.

On May 6, Lebanon held its first parliamentary elections in nine years. The vote had been delayed three times since 2009 due to the

crisis in neighboring Syria as well as disagreement over the country's new electoral law.

The Interior Ministry put the voter turnout at 49.2 percent.

Berri's Amal Movement, which is closely aligned with the Hezbollah resistance movement, won 13 seats at the Lebanese legislature.

Hezbollah together with allied groups and individuals managed to secure at least 70 of the parliament's 128 seats in the elections.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah declared a "great political and moral victory for the resistance option that protects the sovereignty of the country."

After the appointment of the parliament speaker, President Michel Aoun will consult lawmakers about the post of prime minister, with Saad Hariri widely expected to be named premier again.

Hariri's Future Movement lost over a third of its parliamentary seats in the election.

Lebanese news outlet al-Jadeed quoted Hariri as saying on Tuesday that a decision had been taken "to accelerate government formation."

Over Campaign Ban Turkey Accuses Germany of 'Democracy Deficit'

ANKARA (AFP) – Germany is showing a "democracy deficit" by denying Turkish politicians permission to campaign ahead of the June elections, the deputy chairman of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) told a German newspaper on Wednesday.

The German government, like Austria and the Netherlands, has refused permission for Turkish election rallies to be held on its soil ahead of Turkish parliament and presidential elections on June 24.

"I think that our German friends have a deficit when it comes to democracy," Hayati Yazıcı told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

Out of three million Turkish immigrants living in Germany, "1.5 million of them have the right to vote" in Turkey, Yazıcı noted. "Is it fair for Germany to curtail

their right to inform themselves before they vote?" he added.

Berlin has said it applies the no campaigning rule to all other nations within three-month periods before they hold elections.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who heads the AKP, on May 20 addressed thousands of expatriate Turks in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

Ties between Ankara and a number of European countries were hit in 2017 ahead of the April 2017 referendum on shifting to an executive presidential system, with many Turkish politicians not permitted to hold pre-scheduled meetings. The Netherlands deported one Turkish minister on the grounds that she had not sought permission from the authorities, prompting Erdoğan to denounce "Nazi-like" tactics.

Palestine Joins Two More UN Agencies, Treaty

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- The Palestinians have joined two UN agencies and the global convention to halt the spread of chemical weapons, a UN envoy said Wednesday, despite a threat of U.S. funding cuts.

At the United Nations, the Palestinians have the status of a non-member observer state that allows them to seek membership of agencies and become a party to international treaties.

The move will raise the Palestinian profile in international diplomacy and comes amid a rift with the administration of President Donald Trump over its decision to recognize occupied Jerusalem

Al-Quds as the so-called capital of Israel.

Nickolay Mladenov, the UN coordinator for the Middle East, told the Security Council that the Palestinians had joined the Geneva-based UN trade organization UNCTAD, Vienna-based industrial development agency UNIDO and the chemical weapons convention.

"On May 15, Palestine acceded to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Convention on the Prohibition, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons," Mladenov said.

The envoy did not address

whether the decision will have an impact on funding from the United States for these agencies and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The OPCW, UNCTAD and UNIDO rely on voluntary contributions from UN member-states to fund its activities as well as its regular budget.

The United States withdrew some funding for UNESCO when the Palestinians joined the cultural and education agency in 2011 and last year pulled out of the agency altogether.

The Trump administration has also cut funds to the UN Palestinian refugee agency that have left

UNRWA struggling to fill a major gap in its education and health programs.

The OPCW announced in The Hague earlier that the state of Palestine will become the 193rd state to join the chemical weapons convention.

Only the occupying regime of Israel, Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan have yet to ratify the chemical weapons convention, which aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

The Palestinians angered the Zionist regime when they became a state-party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2015.

Zionist Regime's Warplanes Attack Gaza Ports

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's fighter jets have carried out fresh airstrikes against various targets in the Gaza Strip, including seaports, hours after the regime's tanks shelled the southern parts of the blockaded enclave.

Gaza residents said a vessel, which was due to sail to meet a flotilla of boats hoping to reach the coastal enclave, caught fire after being hit by a Zionist air raid early on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said its warplanes had hit underground infrastructure used by the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement in northern Gaza and two targets belonging to its naval forces.

It also noted that the strikes came in response to an alleged arson attack on an empty Israeli military outpost by a group of Palestinians who

had entered the occupied territories from Gaza on Tuesday morning.

Later in the day, an Israeli army tank fired on a Hamas observation post in the southern Gaza Strip.

Tensions have been running high along the Gaza fence since March 30, which marked the start of a series of protests, dubbed "The Great March of Return," demanding the right to return for those driven out of their homeland.

The Gaza clashes reached their peak on May 14, the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Nakba Day (the Day of Catastrophe), which coincided this year with the U.S. embassy relocation from Tel Aviv to occupied al-Quds.

At least 65 Palestinians were killed and more than 2,700 others wounded as the Zionist troops used snipers, airstrikes, tank fire and tear gas to

target the Gaza demonstrators on May 14.

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) convened on Friday, denouncing "the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force" by Israeli forces against the Palestinian people.

On Tuesday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) "to open an immediate investigation" into the regime's rights abuses.

The Zionist regime conducts regular air raids on Palestinians in Gaza under the pretext of hitting Hamas targets. The Gaza Strip has also been under an inhumane siege by the regime since 2007.

Tel Aviv has waged three wars on the blockaded coastal sliver since 2008, including the 2014 offensive, which left more than 2,200 Palestinians dead.