

Zionist Regime Warplanes Attack Gaza

GAZ STRIP (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s fighter jets have conducted fresh airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, hitting 25 targets across the blockaded Palestinian territory.

The regime’s army claimed in a statement that the targets hit early Wednesday were military compounds belonging to the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement, which runs Gaza.

However, a Gaza medical source said the strikes had struck empty sites, including some already hit in recent weeks.

The town of Rafah in southern Gaza was among the targets of the regime’s air force.

According to sources in Gaza, four people have been wounded in the attacks.

“The sounds and explosions reminded us of the nights of summer of 2014,” a Gaza resident told the Israeli daily Haaretz, referring to the 2014 offensive by the occupying regime on the coastal sliver, which left more than 2,200 Palestinians dead.

Elsewhere in its statement, the Israeli army said its air raids came in response to rocket fire from Gaza to the occupied territories.

It also claimed that Israeli “Iron Dome” missile system had intercepted seven out of some 45 rockets fired from Gaza late Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Eshkol regional council said three projectiles had fallen inside populated communities, with one causing damage to buildings and vehicles.

Hamas said in a statement that the rocket fire came in response to earlier aerial assaults by



An explosion is seen in northern Gaza City after an airstrike by the Zionist regime’s jets on June 20, 2018.

the regime against Gaza, stressing that the resistance movement reserves the legitimate right to retaliate against any act of aggression by the occupying enemy.

Israel carries out regular air raids on Palestinians in Gaza, which has also been under an inhumane Israeli siege since 2007 and witnessed three wars since 2008.

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.

Over 130 Palestinians have been killed and thousands more wounded in the violent crackdown.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a report to the Security Council obtained by The Associated Press on Monday that he is “shocked” by Zionist troops’ use of live fire against the Gazans.

The escalation of violence in Gaza is “a warning to all how close to the brink of war the situation is,” Guterres pointed out.

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structure of the nation and the Islamic Republic’s pillars. “You see who your enemies are and how cruelly they stand against, not only the Iranian nation, but the whole humanity.” Ayatollah Khamenei criticized the Trump administration’s separation of immigrant parents and children at the U.S.-Mexico border. “Seeing the images of the crime of separating thousands of children from their mothers in America makes a person exasperated,” he said. “But the Americans separate the children from the immigrant parents with complete maliciousness.” Ayatollah Khamenei said the Trump administration’s child detention centers are a serious issue. “One cannot watch with a sound state of mind these children crying on TV. How can they commit such a crime of separating children from their mothers for the excuse of implementing some policy? This shows how evil they really are.” “They are the same people who gathered a number of big states to confront the Yemeni people, to take the only port, the only passage for the oppressed Yemeni people” to receive humanitarian aid, the Leader said, referring to a Saudi-led offensive on the Mediterranean port of Hodeidah with U.S. and UK support. “They kill people without any compunction. This shows how cruel they are,” he added.

Trump’s... (Continued From Page One)

government because God has ordained the government for his purposes.” Mexico strongly condemned Trump’s administration on Tuesday for its policy of separating immigrant children and parents detained after crossing the U.S.-Mexican border, calling it “inhuman.” “In the name of the Mexican government and people, I want to express our most categorical and energetic condemnation of this cruel and inhuman policy,” Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray told a press conference. “We call on the United States government, at the highest level, to reconsider this policy and give priority to the well being and rights of these boys and girls, regardless of their nationality and immigration status.” The Trump administration faces a growing swell of condemnation at home and abroad for the separations, the product of a “zero-tolerance” policy on undocumented migrants. The United Nations, international rights groups, Christian evangelicals, the pope, former U.S. first ladies and prominent figures in the president’s own Republican party have all criticized the policy. Guatemala expressed its “concern” Tuesday over the policy and its effects. U.S. officials say more than 2,300 children have been separated from their parents or guardians since early May, when the “zero-tolerance” policy was announced. Lawmakers who visited minors in detention in Texas and California have described crying children held in cage-like conditions behind chain-link fencing, with no idea when they will see their parents again. A defiant Trump has vowed to prevent the United States from becoming a “migrant camp” and accused the opposition Democratic party of causing the crisis by blocking immigration reform legislation. The vast majority of separated families come from Central America, where brutal gangs have made their countries among the most violent in the world. Around one percent of the detained children are Mexican, said Videgaray.

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condemning the “hypocrisy” of council members and an alleged “unrelenting bias” against the occupying regime of Israel. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, went to Washington to announce the decision alongside Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The announcement came after the top UN human rights official criticized Washington for separating migrant children from their parents who are seeking asylum after arrival from Mexico. Haley had been threatening the pull-out since last year unless the council made changes advocated by the U.S. The move extends a broader Trump administration pattern of stepping back from international agreements and forums under the president’s “America First” policy. Although numerous officials have said repeatedly that “America First does not mean America Alone,” the administration has retreated from multiple multilateral accords and consensus since it took office. Since January 2017, it has announced its withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, left the UN educational and cultural organization and pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal. Other conten-

tious moves have included slapping tariffs on steel and aluminum against key trading partners, recognizing Jerusalem Al-Quds as Israel’s so-called capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv. Opposition to the decision from human rights advocates was swift. A group of 12 organizations including Save the Children, Freedom House and the United Nations Association-USA said there were “legitimate concerns” about the council’s shortcomings but that none of them warranted a U.S. exit. Haley has been the driving force behind withdrawing from the human rights body, unprecedented in the 12-year history of the council. No country has ever dropped out voluntarily. Libya was kicked out seven years ago. The move could reinforce the perception that the Trump administration is seeking to advance the Zionist regime’s agenda on the world stage, just as it prepares to unveil its long-awaited Israeli-Palestinian “peace” plan despite Palestinian outrage over the embassy relocation. Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, is visiting the Middle East this week as the White House works to lay the groundwork for unveiling the plan. The occupying regime of Israel is the only member on the council whose rights record comes up for discussion at every council session, under “Item 7” on the agenda. Item 7 on “Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories” has been part of the council’s regular business almost as long as it has existed. The U.S. pullout was bound to have ripple effects for at least two members at the council: China and Israel. The U.S., as at other UN organizations, is Israel’s biggest defender. At the rights council, the United States has recently been the most unabashed critic of rights abuses in China - whose growing economic and diplomatic clout has chastened some other would-be critics, rights advocates say. There are 47 countries in the Human Rights Council, elected by the UN’s General Assembly with a specific number of seats allocated for each region of the globe. Members serve for three-year terms and can serve only two terms in a row. The United States has opted to stay out of the Human Rights Council before: The George W. Bush administration opted against seeking membership when the council was created in 2006. The U.S. joined the body only in 2009 under President Barack Obama.

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complained that the European countries’ measures to counter the hostile U.S. policies towards the deal are not sufficient. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned world powers last week that it was impossible for Tehran to stay in the nuclear deal if it cannot benefit from it after the U.S. withdrawal. “If Iran cannot benefit from the (nuclear) deal, then it’s practically impossible to stay in the accord,” Rouhani told French President Emmanuel Macron. Iran notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) two weeks ago that the Atomic Energy Organization is opening a center for producing new centrifuges for uranium enrichment at Natanz.

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The discussions in Geneva were the first visible diplomacy in months between countries, and the effort to form a constitutional committee follows two years of futile rounds of talks that never led to direct meetings between the warring sides. “During the meeting, constructive exchanges and substantive discussions took place on issues relevant to the establishment and functioning of a constitutional committee, and some common ground is beginning to emerge,” de Mistura said in a statement. De Mistura has a mandate from the UN Security Council to forge a political agreement between Syria’s warring sides, including a new constitution and new elections. A congress of Syrians held in the Russian resort of Sochi in January gave him the task of setting up a committee to draft a new constitution. He promised at the time to consult widely on the membership, which would be unlikely to exceed 50. The government of President Bashar Assad has sent the UN a list of nominees and Syria’s opposition is expected to follow suit soon. The meeting brought together the Turkish Foreign Ministry’s Deputy Undersecretary Sedat Onal, Russia’s Syria envoy Alexander Lavrentiev and the Iranian foreign minister’s Special Assistant in Political Affairs Hussein Jaber Ansari. De Mistura plans to meet senior officials from the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Jordan, France, Britain and Germany next week, and expects the Iranian, Russian and Turkish officials to return for more talks in the next few weeks “to widen the common ground,” the statement said.

Palestinian PM Urges Int’l Community: Uphold Financial Promises to UNRWA

RAMALLAH (Xinhua) – Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah urged on Wednesday the international community to uphold financial promises to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) amid its financial crisis.

Hamdallah said in a press statement following his meeting with UNRWA General Commissioner Pierre Krahenbuhl in Ramallah that some parties are trying to undermine the operations of UNRWA, warning against “harming the legitimate rights of the Palestinian refugees safeguarded by the international law.”

The PM highlighted the importance of UNRWA’s role and its protection of the rights of Palestinian refugees until a just resolution for their cause is reached.

UNRWA announced following its advisory commission meeting in Amman Tuesday that it suffers a shortage of 250 million U.S. dollars until the end of 2018.

The UNRWA has over 700 schools serving almost 525,000 children and offers healthcare to some 3.5 million refugees through a network of 150 clinics. In addition, the agency’s food and cash assistance program offers some 1.7 million dollars to extremely vulnerable refugees.

The UNRWA also mentioned in a statement the severity of the risks ahead “with more than 250 million dollars in further support required to preserve UNRWA’s core and emergency assistance in the second half of the year.”

Access to schooling for a generation of Palestinian refugee youth is at stake, the UNRWA said, as well as access to essential health care in and around 58 refugee camps and emergency assistance to millions of insecure refugees in an unstable region.

The statement said Krahenbuhl reiterated his urgent call for all partners “to stay on a successful collective path for the sake of the

Palestine refugee community” in light of an upcoming pledging conference for UNRWA in New York on June 25.

He insisted on the need to respect the hope and dignity of Palestine refugees, added the statement.

In the beginning of the year, the United States cut down its contribution to UNRWA from 125 million dollars to 65 million dollars.

Palestinian officials said the U.S. move to reduce UNRWA funds is in line with the new policy of U.S. President Donald Trump to ignore the final issues of the “peace process”.

Saudis Plan Air Corridor to Afghanistan, Terrorism Concerns Grow

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – While Saudi Arabia is going to open an air corridor to Afghanistan next week, concerns have risen that the air route would be used as an easy way to relocate Saudi-backed terrorists from Syria and Iraq to Afghanistan.

Afghan sources reported that an air corridor between Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia will be inaugurated next week.

Khaama press quoted Samir Rasa, a spokesperson for a senior Afghan presidential adviser in banking and financial affairs, as saying that a memorandum of understanding has been signed for the inauguration of the air corridor between the two countries.

According to Rasa, that new air route will open next week and the first flight is going to transport 500 kg of saffron and other commodities from Afghanistan to Saudi Arabia.

While the air corridor is said to be part of plans to boost Afghan trade and facilitate exports, there are concerns that it could be used for deployment of extremist Saudi-affiliated militants to Central Asia.

After collapse of the self-proclaimed caliphate of the Daesh terror group in Syria and Iraq in November 2017, sponsors of the terrorists have been focusing on Central Asia and Afghanistan as a new hotbed of terrorist activities.

Daesh has stepped up terrorist attacks on Afghanistan’s capital of Kabul, making it the deadliest place in the country for civilians in recent months.

In April 2018, Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani suggested that neighbors of Afghanistan should develop a joint security and intelligence mechanism to counter the threat of terrorism and foil plans for the transfer of terrorists to Afghanistan.

For Fear of Backlash at Home

Riyadh, Abu Dhabi Conceal Yemen War Tolls

SANAA (Dispatches) – Riyadh and Abu Dhabi keep mum on their death toll in Yemen for the fear of protests at home, a leading Arab media outlet reported referring to the large number of images and footages released by the Yemeni press of the Saudi and UAE casualties in war on al-Hudaydah.

The Arabic-language Almasalah news website wrote that the UAE and Saudi Arabia have sustained heavy damage and toll in different fronts of war against Yemen, especially in al-Hudaydah, substantiated by the numerous images and footages of the Saudi and Emirati casualties released by al-Elam al-Harbi, a news website of Yemen.

“Under such conditions, Riyadh and Abu Dha-

bi dismiss damage and tolls of their forces for the fear of popular protests and weakening of their military forces’ morale,” it added.

The website also pointed to the claims by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi that they have surrounded al-Hudaydah airport, noting that they don’t have even one image or footage to prove their claim, while Ansarullah has released a large number of images showing that the airport is still in the hands of the Yemeni forces.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are trying to use a recent battle in Hudaydah as a psychological warfare offensive against Yemeni popular fighters, says a London-based Syrian political commentator.

“What the Saudis and Emiratis are trying to do at the moment is to push a huge sort of psychological warfare offensive as well in order to try and push the Houthis and the popular factions from Hudaydah to flee, but this is not happening,” Ammar Waqaf told Press TV on Wednesday.

The hostility in Yemen is heading towards a huge and bloody battle, which may cause humanitarian crisis, the founder and director of GNOSOS warned.

Saudi Arabia backed by the UAE, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain has been waging a war against Yemen since early 2015.