

Zionist War Minister Calls for Closing Embassy in Ireland

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s war minister Avigdor Lieberman has called for the closure of the Tel Aviv regime’s embassy in Ireland following the country’s passing of legislation which could block the import of products made in Israeli settlements.

Lieberman reacted to the new Irish legislation on Saturday, stressing that the embassy in Dublin should be “immediately” shut down as a result of the vote. “The Irish Senate has given its support to a populist, dangerous and extremist anti-Israel boycott initiative that hurts the chances of dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians; it will have a negative impact on the diplomatic process in the Middle East,” said Lieberman’s spokesman.

On Wednesday, the Zionist regime summoned Ireland’s ambassador over the country’s

passing of the legislation.

The Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill passed earlier in the day in the Irish parliament by a 25-20 vote with most of the country’s major political blocs backing it.

The bill was proposed by Frances Black, an independent senator, who ahead of the vote called on her colleagues to back the legislation “to state firmly that Irish foreign policy will always stand on the side of international law, human rights and justice.”

The regime has been expanding its illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank since it invaded the area in 1967. The international community views the Zionist regime’s control over the region, as well as the eastern part of the city of al-Quds, as illegal, and insists the territory would be a part of a future Palestinian state.



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In a bid to force the regime to withdraw its claim from the area, many countries have banned the sale of goods produced by the Israeli settlers. The boycott is part

of a larger international movement known as the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign that calls for a full boycott of the regime.

U.S. General: Turkey’s Plan to Buy Russian Missile a Risk for NATO



A Russian S-400 missile system is seen in this file photo.

RAF FAIRFORD, England (Dispatches) – Turkey’s plans to buy the Russian S-400 missile system would give a weapon used by “known foes” of NATO deep insight into the radar-evading F-35 fighter jets arriving in growing numbers in Eu-

rope, the top U.S. Air Force general in Europe said.

General Tod Wolters, also the NATO Allied Air Commander, told Reuters the issue was worrying, but he was working to main-

tain strong military ties with the NATO member for now.

“Anything that an S-400 can do that affords it the ability to better understand a capability like the F-35 is certainly not to the advantage of the coalition,” said Wolters, who was in Britain for an air chiefs conference in London and the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford.

U.S. and NATO officials want to prevent the Russian-built system from accumulating information about Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jets just as they are gaining a foothold in Europe.

Norway, Britain and Italy will have a total of 40 F-35s in Europe by the end of the year, with 24 more to be delivered next year and the Netherlands to receive two jets as well, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Air Force.

Turkey’s plans to buy the Russian air and missile defense system have raised tensions with Washington, and U.S. lawmakers are seeking to block the transfer of any F-35 jets to Turkey.

A senior U.S. official last month said Turkey was a key NATO ally, but its purchases of the F-35 would be at risk and Ankara would face sanctions if it proceeded to buy the S-400.

Ankara received its first F-35 jet at the Lockheed plant in Texas last month, although the aircraft will stay in the United States for training.

“The Turks have to make a choice. They’re either going to be part of NATO or they’re going to move into the Russian camp in terms of defense,” said David Deptula, a retired Air Force general and industry consultant.

Afghan President Signals Return of Exiled Dostum Possible

KABUL (Reuters) – Afghan President Ashraf Ghani gave his first indication on Sunday that vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum could be allowed to return from exile after days of protests by the former warlord’s supporters.

Ethnic Uzbek leader Dostum was forced into exile last year over accusations of human rights abuse, settling in Turkey.

In recent days supporters of Dostum’s Jumbish-i Milli party have staged protests across northern Afghanistan, blocking major highways and shutting down government buildings including electoral offices.

Speaking at a news conference in Kabul, Ghani said Dostum’s case was under consideration and “the possibility of his return has increased.”

“His case has a legal aspect and it is with the attorney general,” he said, promising more information later.

Dostum, a great survivor of Afghanistan’s turbulent politics who has faced multiple accusations of human rights abuses over decades, denies accusations that he ordered his guards to kidnap, beat and sexually abuse a political rival. He has not been charged.

Kabul’s international partners including the United States have demand-

ed that Dostum face justice. Last year he flew to Turkey, ostensibly for medical treatment, and has not returned since.

However, while in exile Dostum has kept his formal title of vice president and his influence among the ethnic Uzbeks of northern Afghanistan has remained strong, fuelled by growing enmity among the country’s mix of different ethnic groups including Pashtuns and Persian-speaking Tajiks and Hazaras.

With parliamentary elections due in October ahead of the more important presidential vote next year, tensions have risen sharply as Afghanistan’s political strongmen position themselves and the cracks in Ghani’s unwieldy unity government widen.

On Saturday, a meeting of the main parties demanded that voter registrations be annulled because of concerns over electoral fraud, a demand Ghani angrily rejected, pledging the elections would go ahead as planned.

Although Dostum joined Ghani as one of two vice presidents in the national unity government formed after the disputed 2014 presidential election, he has always been an uncomfortable partner.

Top PKK Terrorist Killed in Northern Turkey

ANKARA (Press TV) – Turkish security forces have killed a senior member of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militant group accused of killing a teenager last year during an anti-terrorism operation in the country’s northern province of Gumushane.

Turkey’s Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu, in a statement published on his official Twitter page on Sunday, announced that Mehmet Yakisir, better known by the nom de guerre Zeynel, had been killed during an offensive in the Kurtun district of the province.

Yakisir reportedly killed 15-year-old Eren Bulbul last August as the latter was showing security forces a PKK terrorist hideout in the Macka district of the northern province of

Trabzon.

The statement added that Yakisir was on the red category of the terror blacklist, adding that another PKK militant, identified as Levent Dayan, was separately killed in the same region. Dayan operated under the alias Rodi.

Turkey’s Interior Ministry, in a statement released on Thursday, announced that high-ranking PKK terrorist Sefer Acar, better known by the nom de guerre Welat Gever, had been “neutralized” during an offensive in the Kocycigit village of the eastern province of Bitlis on June 28.

The Turkish military generally uses the term “neutralize” to signify that the militants

were killed, captured or surrendered.

The statement added that Acar was on the red category of the terror blacklist, and wanted for a terrorist attack on a Turkish military helicopter in Iraq’s northern semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, which left 15 Turkish soldiers dead.

Turkish gendarmerie forces recovered a Turkish lira banknote dated 1998 from the slain militant, which read, “Money from the helicopter pilot downed in Herko 11-27-1998.” The terrorist had kept the memento of his deadly attack for 20 years.

PKK militants regularly clash with Turkish forces in the Kurdish-dominated southeast of Turkey attached to northern Iraq.

Syrian...

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Syrian state news agency SANA said on Sunday that terrorists had been handing over their heavy weapons to the Syrian army, showing images of armored vehicles and heavy artillery it said had been collected.

A large humanitarian aid operation to government-held areas of southwest Syria began this week, after the UN on Monday said the government had asked it to begin deliveries. Sixteen trucks carrying 3,000 food parcels reached the towns of Nassib and Um al-Mayathen in Dara’a province near a border crossing with Jordan on Sunday, a Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) statement said.

Aid was also delivered to four other areas of Dara’a earlier in the week, SARC said.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Saturday an accord aimed at containing the Syrian conflict could be destroyed if Syrian government forces target the Idlib region, a Turkish presidential source said.

The two presidents spoke by telephone after the Syrian government raised the national flag on Thursday over areas of Dara’a.

“President Erdogan stressed that the targeting of civilians in Dara’a was worrying and said that if the Damascus regime targeted Idlib in the same way the essence of the Astana accord could be completely destroyed,” the source said.

Turkey has set up a series of observation posts in Idlib as part of a deal which it reached last year with Russia and Iran in the Kazakh capital Astana to reduce fighting between terrorists and the Syrian government in de-escalation zones.

Russian officials have warned so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA) negotiators in Dara’a that they plan to launch an attack on Idlib in September, an FSA spokesman told the SMART opposition news agency.

Officials ...

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Thirteen protesters and seven policemen were wounded in the clashes.

Iraq’s top Shia cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has expressed solidarity with protesters, saying they faced an “extreme lack of public services”.

On Friday, protesters stormed the international airport in the holy city of Najaf, temporarily suspending air traffic.

Flights from Iran to the Iraqi city of Najaf will be diverted to Baghdad, Iran’s state television reported on Sunday.

Abadi has announced that his caretaker government would release funds to Basra for water, electricity and health services.

A political bloc led by populist cleric Moqtada al-Sadr won a majority in the poll on an anti-corruption platform which had appeal across Iraq’s electorate.

Substantial relief is unlikely to come anytime soon for Basra, once dubbed the “Venice of the Middle East” for its network of canals resembling the Italian city.

Michael Springmann, a former U.S. diplomat, has told Press TV that the ongoing popular outrage is a fallout of United States-led wars against Iraq.

“This is the direct result of American wars by George H. W. and George W. Bush in 1991 and 2003,” he said, referring to the U.S. invasions of Iraq.

“They destroyed the Iraqi economy,” he said. “We are seeing the results of this now. There is...20-percent unemployment, electricity less than five hours a day, shortage of water.”

Iraq needs to generate billions of dollars to rebuild after its three-year war with Daesh terrorists.

Demonstrators, who are demanding jobs and better government services, have cut off access to the southern Umm Qasr commodities port.

Security forces have battled protesters in Basra and several other cities in the south.

Saddam Hussein oppressed the country’s majority Shia Muslims, neglecting their southern heartland.

Abadi, who also serves as commander-in-chief of Iraq’s armed forces, had earlier issued a nationwide order placing security forces on high alert in the southern provinces.

His directive aims to stem the burgeoning protests, which spread from Basra to the cities of Amara, Nasiriya and the holy city of Najaf.

Abadi visited Basra on Friday in a bid to help restore calm to the oil-rich province, pledging to take “necessary measures against infiltrators and pursue them in accordance with the law.”

A statement from Abadi’s office cited “small and organized groups who try to exploit the peaceful demonstrations of citizens to sabotage and attack state institutions and private property.”

Abdel Mehdi al-Karbalai, the representative of Ayatollah Sistani, urged the demonstrators to refrain from violence, warning them against being influenced by “unruly individuals or those acting in self-interest”.