

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s international media spokesman said he was taking a leave of absence to clear his name of accusations that he denied. David Keyes, 34, did not give details of the accusations - but has in recent days made statements in the Israeli media denying accusations of sexual misconduct posted online by a woman from his native United States. Several Israeli lawmakers had called for his suspension since the posts on Twitter appeared. The Western-backed coalition intervened in Yemen in 2015 to restore the internationally recognized government in exile, in a war widely seen as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Putin Concerned by Terrorist Moves in Syria’s Idlib



In this file picture, Syrian children and adults receive treatment for a suspected chemical attack at a makeshift clinic on the militant-held village of al-Shifaniyah in the Eastern Ghouta region on the outskirts of the capital Damascus.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russian President Vladimir Putin is concerned over terrorist activities in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib, the RIA news agency cites the Kremlin as saying. President Putin discussed the latest developments in Syria’s last stronghold of terrorists with members of Russia’s Security Council on Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying.

Syrian army troops are preparing to

launch a full-scale military operation against different factions of terrorists that have practically held hostage the inhabitants of Idlib for a long time. Syria and Russia have warned that the U.S., along with Britain and France, is gearing up for a new military attack against Syria as the army prepares for the liberation of Idlib. Senior officials of Turkey, Russia, Germany and France met in Istanbul on Friday, as global and regional pow-

ers are wrestling over how to best deal with terrorists from their last major stronghold in the Syrian province of Idlib. Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov, German chancellor’s foreign policy adviser Jan Hecker and French president’s diplomatic adviser Philippe Etienne joined the meeting hosted by Turkish presidential advisor Ibrahim Kalin, Turkey’s state-run broadcaster TRT Haber said.

According to the broadcaster, the main agenda of the meeting, also attended by technical experts from the four states, is setting the program and other details of a summit meeting of leaders of the four countries in the upcoming days. Earlier in the day, local media reported that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Monday over Idlib in Russia’s sea resort city of Sochi.

Both Damascus and Moscow, a close ally of the Arab country, have already submitted proofs and evidence to the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) showing that terrorists in Idlib are preparing to set up another false flag chemical attack to frame Damascus and pave the way for the US-led coalition to attack Syrian government troops.

In an address to a key trilateral summit, hosted by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and also attended by Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in Tehran on September 7, Putin said militants are preparing provocations, including the use of chemical weapons, in Idlib.

“The remaining groups of extremists are currently concentrated in the de-escalation zone in the province of Idlib. Terrorists are making attempts to disrupt the ceasefire, moreover, they are carrying out and preparing various kinds of provocations, including the use of chemical weapons,” the Russian president said.

Erdogan: Turkey Came Under ‘Heinous Economic Attack’ After U.S. Statements

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Friday said Turkey came under a “heinous economic attack” after statements from the United States. At a speech to officials from his AK Party in Ankara, he said: “We have faced a heinous attack targeting the Turkish economy after a series of negative statements from the U.S. about our country were used as an excuse.” Erdogan also said Turkey would see the result of the central bank’s independence after its substantial rate increase a day earlier. On Thursday the central bank lifted its

benchmark rate by 6.25 percentage points. Erdogan further called on Turks to convert all savings to lira and also urged the private sector not to abandon production and investments. Washington has imposed sanctions on two Turkish ministers and doubled tariffs on steel and aluminum imported from the country. Such measures are largely believed to have led to a sharp decline in the value of Turkey’s national currency. The lira has fallen more than 40 percent against the dollar this year, driving up the cost of food and fuel and sending inflation soaring to 18

percent, its highest in a decade and a half. Washington took the punitive measures in protest at Ankara’s detention of American Pastor Andrew Brunson, who has been accused of having links with terror organizations in Turkey. To help ward off the impacts of U.S. measures, the Turkish government has ordered exporters to convert 80 percent of their foreign exchange revenues into lira. Erdogan had earlier lashed out at the U.S. for behaving like “wild wolves,” stressing that Ankara would pursue non-dollar transac-

tions in trade with Russia and other countries. Turkey’s exports totaled \$157 billion last year, according to official data. Meanwhile, Erdogan said his AK Party would look into the possibility of forming an alliance with the nationalist MHP party for local elections in March 2019. The AK Party formed an alliance with the MHP before parliamentary and presidential elections in June and Erdogan told AKP officials in a speech in Ankara the parties planned to hold talks on a fresh alliance.

‘U.S. Expects Some Criticism of Parts of Coming Mideast Plan’

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The Trump administration is prepared for criticism by the Zionist regime of elements of its coming Middle East “peace plan”, the U.S. envoy to the region said, even as Washington faces growing Palestinian accusations that it will be heavily tilted in favor of the Zionist regime. In an interview with Reuters, Jason Greenblatt, a chief architect of the long-awaited so-called peace initiative, said U.S. negotiators had entered the “pre-launch phase” of the plan, despite a boycott by Palestinian leaders. But he declined to specify a time frame, except to say it would not be announced at the UN General Assembly gathering in New York later this month, or offer any details of a proposal that has drawn deep skepticism even before its unveiling.

Pushing back against widespread perceptions among Palestinians, Arab officials and independent analysts that the peace plan is likely to be decidedly pro-Zionist, Greenblatt claimed that both sides can expect parts they will like and dislike. “We’re going to have to defend the plan to Israelis and Palestinians. We are ready for criticism from all sides, but we believe this is the best path forward for everyone,” he said as the administration moved to finalize the initiative, which is led by Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner. But there was no immediate explanation of what might disappoint the Zionist regime, who have been largely pleased with President Donald Trump’s Middle East policies. Greenblatt said, however, that the United States

will recommend compromises but will not seek to impose a deal. “The parties will need to decide if they think the plan works for them and will make their lives better,” he said. “The parties are the only ones who can make these compromises, and there are no compromises on Israel’s security needs.” Doubts have mounted over whether Trump’s administration can secure what he has called the “ultimate deal” after it cut off aid to the Palestinians and ordered the PLO’s office in Washington shut, further angering Palestinian leaders and reinforcing their refusal to engage in U.S.-led diplomacy. The Palestinians have refused to participate in the U.S. effort since December when Trump recognized al-Quds as the Zionist regime’s “capital” and then moved the U.S. embassy there.

Palestinians Protest West Bank Village Demolition



Palestinian protesters clash with Zionist troops over the expected demolition of Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar in the occupied West Bank on September 14, 2018.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Clashes have broken out between Zionist troops and a group of Palestinian protesters over the demolition of a Bedouin village in the occupied West Bank as the Tel Aviv regime presses ahead with its land expropriation policies in the occupied territories irrespective of great international outcry.

On Friday, dozens of protesters and residents of Khan al-Ahmar village came together to express their deep resentment over the occupying regime’s move.

Video footage broadcast by a number of Palestinian news agencies show Israeli troops scuffling with the protesters and even in some cases pushing them aggressively away.

In one scene, Zionist troops are seen violently dragging a Palestinian man on the ground.

Last week, the Israeli High Court approved plans for the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar village. It could be razed within the coming days.

Zionist officials allege that Palestinian structures there have been built without the relevant building permits and pose a threat to residents because of their proximity to a highway.

Critics, on the other hand, maintain that building permits are nearly impossible to obtain for Palestinians in Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank and the demolition

is meant to clear the way for new settlements. The European Parliament has passed a resolution, warning that the regime’s decision to demolish Khan al-Ahmar village would constitute a grave violation of international law and threaten peace efforts with the Palestinians. The institution, in a 320 to 277 vote on Thursday, passed a resolution against Israel that called for monetary compensation for financial losses should Khan al-Ahmar be demolished.

The resolution stated that “the status quo in this area is of fundamental importance for the viability of the two-state solution and for the establishment of a contiguous and viable Palestinian state in the future.” The EU also called upon Israel to compensate it for the infrastructure it had built in the village “ten EU member states are supporting humanitarian programs in Khan al-Ahmar, including the construction of a primary school, and an estimated 315,000 Euros worth of EU-funded humanitarian assistance is now at risk.” The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority has submitted a new complaint over the Israeli “war crime” against Khan al-Ahmar village at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Two Saudi Pilots Killed in Copter Crash in Yemen

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Two Saudi pilots were killed when their helicopter came down in the eastern Yemeni province of al-Mahra on Friday, the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthi Ansarullah group in Yemen said. In a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency, the coalition said the helicopter, which belongs to the Saudi ground forces, had crashed following technical issues. “(The helicopter came down) when it was carrying out its tasks of fighting terrorism and smuggling in al-Mahra in Yemen,” the statement said, quoting the coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Malki. The incident came after the Houthi Ansarullah movement warned Saudi Arabia and its allies were positioned to attack food storage facilities in Yemeni port town of al-Hudaydah. The Saudi-led coalition this week intensified its military campaign to take over the strategic

port. Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, the chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Committee of Yemen, revealed in a Twitter post on Thursday that Riyadh had plans to attack food storage facilities and silos across Hudaydah - which is the main conduit for food supplies into the war-torn country - under the false pretext that they were being used to store weapons. He also warned that the coalition was going to target Hudaydah’s populated areas with “blind strikes.” Houthi said the decision came amid a media campaign by the aggressors to justify their atrocities in the city. The warnings followed the resumption of relentless attacks by Saudi Arabia and its allies, including the United Arab Emirates, against Yemen after UN-brokered talks between warring parties failed in Geneva last week.