

# Russia Asks Zionist Regime to Give Explanation on Plane Downing in Syria

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia's Foreign Ministry has urged the Zionist regime to provide further explanations on the deadly crash of a Russian military plane in the Syrian province of Latakia, which was shot down as a result of the regime's pilots' unprofessional actions.

Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Russian experts had confirmed the actions of Zionist pilots resulted in the downing of the aircraft by the Syrian air defenses and deaths of 15 Russian servicemen.

She stressed that Zionist pilots were behaving in an unprofessional manner at the very least, saying that Russia still needed to hear more "explanations from Israel".

Her comments came after a delegation from the Zionist regime led by Amikam Norkin, the regime's air force commander, traveled to

Moscow on Thursday with information about the crash. However, the delegation's explanations apparently failed to convince the Russian government.

The Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv lashed out at Israel for its "irresponsible and unfriendly actions," and pinned the blame on Israel's Air Force, which was conducting aerial assaults against Syrian army positions when the incident happened.

"Moscow views as irresponsible and unfriendly actions of Israeli Air Force, which exposed Russian Il-20 aircraft to danger and led to death of 15 servicemen," the Russian embassy said in a tweet.

"Russia would take all necessary measures to eliminate threat to life and security of our military fighting against terrorism," it added.

The Israel regime has over the past years carried out numerous



An Ilyushin Il-20M reconnaissance plane takes off from Moscow.

strikes against Syrian army positions in what is widely viewed as an attempt to help the terrorists survive in the face of successful Syrian army operations. It has defied criticisms of its unlawful military

actions against Syrian soil. The regime's war minister, Avigdor Lieberman, said Thursday that the regime would not stop such attacks, but would do more to "de-conflict" them with Russian forces.

## Saudi Arabia Bans Over 600,000 Palestinians From Hajj



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WEST BANK (Dispatches) – More than 600,000 Palestinians have effectively been banned from participating in the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages in Saudi Arabia after the kingdom announced it will no longer provide visas to Palestinian holders of temporary Jordanian passports, according to local travel

agencies. Travel agencies in Jordan and East al-Quds occupied by the Zionist regime were informed of the Saudi decision in early September without any further explanations on the reason of the ban. "They will refuse to issue visas for any temporary passport that

has no national {citizenship} number," Abu Khaled al-Jimzawi, an East al-Quds-based tourism office director, told the Middle East Eye.

The new Saudi policy will deny the Palestinians the chance to participate in the Hajj pilgrimage, a religious ritual that has to be completed by Muslims at least once in their lifetime.

Many Palestinians fled to Jordan between 1947 and 1967 as a result of the Zionist occupation. Today, more than 600,000 Palestinians live in Jordan without any citizenship but are given temporary Jordanian passports for travel. Moreover, the Saudi decision will also affect most Palestinian residents of the Israeli occupied East Jerusalem as they also rely on the temporary Jordanian passports.

Observers believe the passport ban seeks to induce Palestinian refugees to apply for Jordanian citizenship. East al-Quds residents will have to apply for Is-

raeli citizenship or request travel documents from the Palestinian Authority, a move that is known to be used by the occupying regime to revoke resident status from Palestinians on the basis of numerous pretexts, such as a newly passed "breach of loyalty" law.

Internal emails from U.S. President Senior Adviser Jared Kushner disclosed by the Foreign Policy Magazine in August revealed plans that sought to neutralize Palestinian refugees in Jordan, effectively ending their Palestine related status.

Furthermore, some Arab media outlets speculate the Saudi decision was in line with what U.S. President Donald Trump has labeled as the "Deal of the Century", underlining the U.S. president's allegedly new Middle East road map. Trump has yet to officially publish the controversial proposal that has drawn condemnation from many Palestinian and regional figures.

### Over Affiliation to Gulen Movement

## Turkey Arrests Dozens of On-Duty Soldiers

ANKARA (Press TV) – Turkish security forces have arrested dozens of on-duty soldiers on suspicion of affiliation to a movement led by U.S.-based opposition cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom the Ankara government accuses of having masterminded the July 2016 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the suspects were detained in the capital Ankara and 15 other provinces across Turkey.

The sources added that the arrests came after the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in Ankara issued warrants for 110 soldiers from the Turkish Air Forces Command.

The prosecutor's office said three colonels, two lieutenant colonels, six majors, three captains, 18 first lieutenants, a second lieutenant and 77 sergeants, are those ordered held in the operations. The remaining 25 suspects are still being sought.

During the 2016 botched putsch, a faction of the Turkish military declared that it had seized control of the country and the government of Erdogan was no more in charge. The attempt was, however, suppressed a few hours later.

Ankara has since accused Gulen of having orchestrated the coup. The opposition figure is also accused of being behind a long-running cam-

paign to topple the government via infiltrating the country's institutions, particularly the army, police and the judiciary.

Gulen has denounced the "despicable putsch" and reiterated that he had no role in it.

"Accusations against me related to the coup attempt are baseless and politically-motivated slanders," he said in a statement.

The 77-year-old cleric has also called on Ankara to end its "witch hunt" of his followers, a move he says is aimed at "weeding out anyone it deems disloyal to President Erdogan and his regime."

Turkish officials have frequently called on their US counterparts to extradite Gulen, but their demands have not been taken heed of.

Turkey, which remains in a state of emergency since the coup, has been engaged in suppressing the media and opposition groups suspected to have played a role in the failed coup.

Tens of thousands of people have been arrested in Turkey on suspicion of having links to Gulen and the failed coup. More than 110,000 others, including military staff, civil servants and journalists, have been sacked or suspended from work over the same accusations.

The international community and rights groups have been highly critical of the Turkish president over the massive dismissals and the crackdown.

### Every... (Continued From Page One)

Mourners gathered in the financial capital of Mumbai on Thursday for a pre-Ashura procession. "The stand that Imam Hussein took all those years ago reinforces my belief in the goodness of society," said Najaf, a mourner in India's southern tech hub of Bengaluru. "It reminds me to fight for my beliefs no matter what. He lost the battle, but what he fought for still holds true to this very day." In Iran, tens of millions held mourning processions across the country. Mourners marched in the streets, while others stood by, distributing food, sweets and drinks to the crowd. Similar ceremonies were held in other Iranian cities and villages where people stopped business and economic activities. "Every nation is kept alive by its culture, beliefs and rituals," said Rahim Khashtou, a lecturer on cultural studies at Karaj Azad University. "Ashura is one such instance that has had a defining role in the Iranian society." Azam Ardestani, a 49-year-old housekeeper, said Ashura "shows that we should only follow truth and righteousness and that we should be prepared to defend what's righteous." For Sajjad Teymoori, a 28-year-old civil engineer, it's a symbol of standing up to persecution. "We value Imam Hussein because he gave everything he had for God, to fight oppression and tyranny."

### Nasrallah... (Continued From Page One)

to degrade Syria's military capabilities. "This is a lie. Sometimes they do hit places that are connected to weapons — that they know of — but many of the attacks are not related to that at all," he said. "Israel is working on preventing Syria from possessing missile capabilities." Hezbollah fighters will continue to be deployed in Syria, Nasrallah said, but perhaps in lesser numbers due to reduced fighting there after Syrian government forces regained control of most terrorist-held areas.

He stressed that Lebanon and the resistance should always be on alert and not become complacent when it comes to the Zionist regime, even if the balance of power is shifting.

"Israel knows that more countries are joining and supporting the resistance. They also had high hopes concerning Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, but they did not pan out," he said.

"From the 1980s — no, from 2006 up until now, have you ever heard Israel saying they will start a war with Lebanon and arrive to occupy Beirut? Never. They can't claim this anymore because their army has weakened while ours, along with the resistance, have evolved." Nasrallah went on to voice his party's support for the Palestinians, Yemenis and Bahrainis, "each fighting for their rights and survival." "For the past four years, the Yemeni people have been living an injustice. Every Arab, Muslim and free person should raise their voice against the assaults waged by the United States and Saudi Arabia on Yemen ... it is a human responsibility." While he briefly touched on the Palestinian cause, Nasrallah shifted his focus on Bahrain, saying its people have been oppressed by neighboring countries. "They are fighting for their identity and their rights," he said. Bahrain's regime put down Arab Spring protests demanding reforms, drawing harsh criticism from international rights groups for its treatment of the Shia-majority population. Nasrallah called for support of Iran, as the newly imposed U.S. sanctions will take effect in the coming weeks. "It is our responsibility to stand with Iran." He said that Iran is being punished for holding on to its Islamic identity, its freedom, its wealth and its sovereignty. "The U.S. is trying to stop other countries from trading with Iran and buying its oil. They're punishing Iran," Nasrallah said. He added that Iran, a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause, was the first country to lend a helping hand to Syria and Iraq in their fight against Daesh.

Nasrallah briefly touched on the situation in Lebanon calling for calm and an end to the deadlocked Cabinet formation process.

### Ex-Member... (Continued From Page 2)

Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist assaults since the victory of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, about 12,000 have fallen victim to MKO's acts of terror. In 2012, the U.S. State Department removed the MKO from its list of designated terrorist organizations. A few years ago, MKO members were relocated from their Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala province to a former U.S. military base in Baghdad, and later sent to Albania. The Al-Bawaba report said that the U.S. had paid \$20 million to the UN refugee agency to transfer thousands of MKO terrorists from Iraq to Albania, and had even given Tirana funds to build a military-style facility for the group.

### Report... (Continued From Page 2)

Iran, and it will not be a personal agreement between two governments like the last one; we seek a treaty," he said. Zarif rejected Hook's characterization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which has been endorsed by a UN Security Council Resolution. "U.S. calls JCPOA 'a personal agreement between two governments', claiming it 'seeks a treaty'. Wrong. It's an int'l accord enshrined in a UN SC res. Plus, U.S. has violated its treaty obligations too & faces 2 suits at ICJ. Apparently, U.S. only mocks calls for peace," he wrote. Along with his tweet, Zarif posted a video showing a peace activist briefly disrupting the event which Hook was addressing. Just as Hook was done with the first part of his speech, anti-war activist Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink institute, showed up before the cameras to challenge him on his hostile position regarding Iran. "You are making a case for a war with Iran. How did the war with Iraq turn out? You're doing exactly the same thing as we did in the case of Iraq," Benjamin shouted before being carried off the stage.

### At Least... (Continued From Page One)

Bugolora, a town on the larger Ukerewe Island, where it was market day when locals said the vessel was commonly packed with people and goods. "I have not heard from either my father or my younger brother who were on the ferry. They had gone to the market in Bugolora to buy a school uniform and other supplies for the new school term," said Domina Maua, who was among those seeking information about loved ones. Davita Ngenda, an elderly woman in Ukara, had already received bad news. "My son is among the bodies recovered," she said, weeping. "He had gone with his wife but she has not

### Dual... (Continued From Page 2)

The 39-year-old was arrested after it became clear that she had run an illegal course to recruit and train people for the Persian service of the BBC, which is a major party to the "soft war" being waged by the West against Tehran, according to Iranian officials. Zaghari had initially been sentenced to five years in jail on charges relating to national security, but authorities later opened her case and tried her on additional charges based on new evidence including a BBC paycheck and contents of her personal email.

## Zionist Regime Threatens to Cut Palestinian Tax Transfer

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime will cut the tax revenue it transfers to the Palestinian Authority if it pays the family of the alleged killer of an American-Zionist settler, Zionist Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon said on Friday.

Kahlon said he had instructed that any sum paid to the attacker's family be withheld from tax revenue that the occupying regime collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority (PA) under interim peace deals.

"I will examine other ways to limit the economic activity of the terrorist's family," he said on Twitter.

American-born Ari Fuld, 45, was reportedly stabbed at a shopping mall in the Etzion bloc of Jewish settlements south of al-Quds on Sunday. His alleged attacker, Khalil Youssef Jabarin, 17, from a village in the occupied West Bank, was shot at the scene and has since been in Israeli custody.

"The attacker is in moderate condition after

being shot and neutralized by a civilian who was in the mall," The Jerusalem Post reported.

It has not yet been decided whether Jabarin and his family will receive payments, according to a Palestinian official.

The Zionist regime has in the past withheld tax funds and in July enacted a law to financially penalize the PA by the amount of stipends paid to Palestinians jailed by the regime, their families, and the families of those killed by Zionist troops.