

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) -- Gaza's Health Ministry says 32 Palestinians have been wounded by Israeli fire during a mass protest along the beach near the Occupied Palestine frontier. Protesters threw flaming tires over the fence Monday, while fishing boats hoisted Palestinian flags. Zionist forces responded with tear gas and live fire. Gazans have been staging protests for the past six months in hopes of easing a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade. Over the weekend, the Zionist regime halted Qatari-donated fuel shipments to Gaza's power plant.

MINSK (Reuters) -- The Russian Orthodox Church said Monday it had decided to break off all relations with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in protest over its endorsement of Ukraine's request for an "autocephalous" (independent) church. Speaking in Belarus after a meeting of the Russian Church's ruling body, Metropolitan Ilarion, a cleric, said the Holy Synod had been left with no choice but to sever ties with the Patriarchate in Istanbul, seat of the global spiritual leader of roughly 300 million Orthodox Christians.

Viewpoint

The World of the Gluttonous and the Starving

Brazil Film Festival Screens Iranian Titles



Iran Nominated for Inspiring League of Year Award



After Official Reopening Syrian Army Raises National Flag on Quneitra Crossing



Syrian FM Muallem: East of Euphrates, Next Target After Idlib

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Syria's Foreign Minister Walid Muallem said on Monday the next target after the liberation of Idlib is to retake the area east of the Euphrates, which is held by U.S.-backed Kurdish militants.

"After Idlib our target is east of the Euphrates," he said at a press conference with his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari here, stressing his country's determination to restore sovereignty over all Syrian territories.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday the U.S. is seeking to establish a quasi-state east of the Euphrates River and create illegal structures there.

"On Syrian territory there are vast lands east of the Euphrates where absolutely unacceptable things are taking place," Lavrov told France's Le Figaro.

"The U.S. is trying to use these lands through their Syrian allies -- above all, through the Kurds -- in order to establish a quasi-state there," he went on to say.

The U.S. has been conducting airstrikes against what it says are Daesh positions inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a United Nations mandate.

The U.S. and its allies have repeatedly been accused of targeting and killing civilians and drawn criticism over their failure to destroy Daesh, which they claim to be fighting.

Muallem on Monday said the U.S. has destroyed Raqqah Province under the pretext of fighting Daesh. U.S.-sponsored militants are refusing to hand back Raqqah to the government control after taking it over from Daesh last year.

Amnesty International's new Secretary General Kumi Naidoo said on Friday he had been shocked by the horrific destruction and utter human devasta-

tion left by U.S. airstrikes in Raqqah.

Muallem said Washington continues to support Daesh and evacuate its members to the east of the Euphrates.

A retaliatory attack by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps late last month hit Daesh headquarters near Albu Kamal, east of the Euphrates.

A U.S. defense official telling CNN that Iranian missiles came within three miles of U.S. troops in the country, raising questions as to why the terrorists were so close to the Americans without being targeted.

In his remarks, Muallem touched on a deadline which passed Monday without Takfiri terrorists leaving a planned buffer zone in Idlib as set out under a Russian-Turkish deal.

The minister said other options are on the table if the militants do not comply with the requirements of the deal, without elaborating.

The deal, agreed last month on Turkey's initiative, forestalled an imminent offensive by the Syrian government forces to liberate the province, the militants' last major stronghold in Syria.

"We cannot keep quiet about the continuation of the current situation in Idlib if the Nusra Front refuses to comply with this agreement," Muallem said.

The minister said it was up to Moscow now to judge whether the deal had been fulfilled.

"Now we must give the time to our friends the Russians to judge whether the agreement was fulfilled or not," he said.

Muallem said Ankara has the means to ensure the agreement is complied with.

"For us we said always Idlib, as any other province, has to return back to Syrian sovereignty. We prefer to have it through peaceful means, through reconciliation, but if not there (are) other options," he added.

Trump Says 'Rogue Killers' Likely Eliminated Khashoggi: 'Milking' Time for U.S. Again



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Donald Trump has speculated that "rogue killers" may have been responsible for the presumed death of the Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, as he announced he was dispatching the U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo to Riyadh to discuss the deepening crisis with King Salman of Saudi Arabia.

After speaking to the Saudi king by phone, the U.S. president said Salman "denies any knowledge of whatever may have happened" to the journalist and was "working closely with Turkey" to find out what

happened to him.

"The denial was very, very strong," Trump told reporters. "It sounded to me like maybe these could have been rogue killers. Who knows?"

"All I can do is report what he told me. He told me in a very firm way that they had no knowledge of it. He said it very strongly," Trump said.

The U.S. president's claim that rogue elements may be responsible for Khashoggi's disappearance implies he accepts that the journalist has been murdered -- but is seeking a way out of the crisis that somehow ab-

solves the Saudi royal court.

King Salman also discussed the disappearance of the journalist with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday evening.

Khashoggi has been missing since he stepped inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, with Turkish officials saying they believe he has been killed.

Erdogan has behaved cautiously in the controversy, expressing concern but stopping short of directly accusing Riyadh.

King Salman phoned Erdogan "to thank the president for wel-

coming the kingdom's proposal to form a joint working group" to discuss the disappearance, the Saudi foreign ministry said.

Few details have emerged over how the joint working group will function, sparking suspicion that Saudi Arabia might be trying to coax Turkey with certain concessions at a time of the latter's economic problems.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Saudi Arabia had not cooperated in the investigation, despite proposing to create the joint working group with Turkish authorities.

Turkish officials have reportedly shared with Washington contents of video and audio recordings that allegedly contain evidence supporting claims that Khashoggi was murdered by the Saudi government.

President Trump initially made it clear that whatever the outcome of the inquiry into the disappearance of Khashoggi, the U.S. would not forgo billions of dollars in arms deals with Saudi Arabia.

However, he told CBS News on Saturday that the U.S. was investigating the case which he called "really terrible and disgusting" and that "there will be severe punishment".

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Official: U.S. Still Aims to Zero Iran Oil Exports

PARIS (Dispatches) -- The United States still aims to cut Iran's oil sales to zero, a senior U.S. official said on Monday.

U.S. special envoy for Iran Brian Hook was talking to reporters after a visit to India, a major importer of Iranian oil, and talks with officials from France, Britain and Germany before the start of a new round of U.S. sanctions on Nov. 4 targeting Iran's energy sector and financial transactions.

The three European countries have been trying to save the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and multiple global powers since U.S. President Donald Trump announced in May that the United States would withdraw from the pact.

In a conference call from

Luxembourg, where Hook was meeting European officials, he said the U.S. goal is for countries to cut imports of Iranian oil to zero as quickly as possible

"We are working with countries that are reducing their imports to ensure that this happens," he said.

Hook declined to answer questions on possible waivers on sanctions for countries that are reducing their imports or whether the United States would target the SWIFT international payments messaging system.

Iran, the third-largest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, has said its oil exports cannot be halted because of high demand in the market.

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President Rouhani: Iran Has 'Plans' to Counter U.S.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday the United States will not be able to continue its anti-Iran policies for long, because Tehran has drawn up "accurate plans" to counter them.

"The Iranian administration has extensive plans to counter the enemies' psychological and economic warfare and solve problems," Rouhani said in a meeting with a group of economic experts and academics here.

He stressed the importance of raising hope in the country to defeat the enemies' psychological and economic warfare against Iran.

Rouhani noted that Iran has been plagued by some economic ailments that are rooted in the

past.

"We are not in a critical situation, but conditions are not normal either," he said, adding this issue must be taken into consideration in all decision-making processes.

Rouhani said critics have the right to express their grievances about the economic conditions in the country, but they should also propose solutions to problems.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said last month that enemies of Iran have unleashed an all-out economic and media war against Iran with the aim of creating "despair" and "pessimism" among people.

"Today, the Islamic establishment

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