

**Trump to Erdogan: U.S. Doesn't Want Issues Over F-35 Jets**  
 ANKARA (Reuters) – U.S. President Donald Trump told Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan that he didn't want any problems with the sale of F-35 fighter jets to Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters following NATO meetings in Brussels, Cavusoglu said that Turkey saw no issues in procuring the Lockheed Martin jets despite efforts in the U.S. Congress to block the sale. Trump made the comment to Erdogan during talks at a recent G20 summit, Cavusoglu said. The U.S. Senate has demanded a block on the sales of the jets to Turkey unless Trump certifies that Turkey is not threatening NATO, purchasing defense equipment from Russia or detaining U.S. citizens.

**Thought for Today**  
 There are four causes of infidelity and loss of belief in Allah: hankering after whims, a passion to dispute every argument, deviation from truth; and dissension.  
 Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## U.S. Pressuring Arab Allies to Back Anti-Hamas Resolution at UN

## Turkish Prosecutor Seeks Arrest of Saudi Officials Over Khashoggi Killing



Palestinian demonstrators clash with Zionist troops after a protest against Israeli land seizures for Jewish settlements, on November 30, 2018 in the village of Mughir, north of Ramallah.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The United States is reportedly exerting pressure on several Arab countries to back its draft UN resolution against the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in support of the Zionist regime's latest wave of attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip.

The UN General Assembly is scheduled to vote Thursday on the U.S.-drafted resolution that condemns Hamas for "firing

rockets into Israel and for inciting violence."

Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz reported that Jason Greenblatt, President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, had sent letters to diplomats from Morocco, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Qatar in order to win their support for the resolution.

A U.S. administration official said Greenblatt had claimed that

while denouncing Hamas, the motion urges support for efforts towards Palestinian political unity.

The countries which oppose terrorism and want stability in the region "have no reason" to reject the document, the U.S. envoy was further quoted as writing.

Greenblatt is also said to have described the resolution as the first UN condemnation of Hamas, claiming it is especially relevant amid a fresh escalation in the Gaza

Strip.

He has urged Arab countries not to join the Palestinian Authority's efforts against the motion.

Besides its Arab allies, the highly pro-Israel administration in Washington has also been lobbying its allies in Europe in support of the anti-Hamas draft.

Last week, the Zionist regime's UN Ambassador Danny Danon said U.S. diplomats had been in talks with their EU counterparts to secure their backing for the resolution, which has sparked criticisms from different Palestinian factions.

Recently, Head of Hamas Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh wrote to the UN to highlight the importance of international work to thwart Washington's "aggressive" efforts meant to delegitimize the Palestinian resistance.

He further reiterated the right of the Palestinian nation to defend themselves and resist the occupation, describing Hamas as a movement that acts for "the fulfillment of the Palestinian aspirations."

Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority officials in Ramallah have also rallied behind Hamas.

Azzam al-Ahmed, a senior Fatah official, said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had instructed the envoy to the UN to work on foiling the U.S. resolution.

"Hamas is part of the Palestinian people, and we won't accept any attempt to add it to the list of terror groups," Ahmed told Arabi21 news website.

Similarly, Fatah spokesman Osama Qawasmeh condemned the U.S.-led motion, saying instead of denouncing Hamas, the world should rap Israel "which is the true face of state-sponsored terrorism."

"We will stand against all hostile efforts to condemn Hamas at the United Nations," he said.



People hold posters of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and candles during a gathering outside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, October 25, 2018.

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Istanbul's chief prosecutor has filed warrants for the arrest of a top aide to Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler and the deputy head of foreign intelligence on suspicion of planning the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, two Turkish officials said on Wednesday.

The prosecutor's office has concluded there is "strong suspicion" that Saud al-Qahtani and General Ahmed al-Asiri, who were removed from their positions in October, were among the planners of the Oct. 2 killing at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, the officials said.

"The prosecution's move to issue arrest warrants for Asiri and Qahtani reflects the view that the Saudi authorities won't take formal action against those individuals," one of the Turkish officials said.

The move also comes a day after senior U.S. senators said they were more certain than ever that Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, was responsible for the killing of Khashoggi after receiving a CIA briefing on the matter.

Making some of their strongest accusations so far, both Republicans and Democrats said

they still want to pass legislation to send a message to Saudi Arabia that the United States condemns the death of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist.

But President Donald Trump and some of his fellow Republicans have argued that Washington should not take action that would risk its relationship with Riyadh, which is viewed as an important counterweight to Iran in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, United Nations human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said on Wednesday that an international investigation was needed to determine who was responsible for the murder of Khashoggi in October.

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Bachelet, asked at news conference in Geneva about the need for an international inquiry, replied: "I do believe it is really needed in terms of ensuring what really happened and who are the (people) responsible for that awful killing."

## Egypt Court Gives Life Sentence to Brotherhood Leader

CAIRO (Dispatches) – An Egyptian court on Wednesday sentenced leader of the Muslim Brotherhood group Mohammed Badie, and other five top members to life sentence over inciting violence and murder outside the group's headquarters in 2013, state-run Ahram newspaper reported.

Life sentence in Egypt is 25 years in jail.

The convicted were accused of providing weapons, ammunition and explosive devices to militants.

They were accused of inciting riots, violence and premeditated murder

outside the group's headquarters in the southeastern Cairo neighborhood of Mokattam. Violence there left at least nine people dead and 91 others injured.

Since the army-led ouster of President Mohamed Morsi in 2013, in response to mass protests against his rule, hundreds of his supporters have been detained over charges varying from violence, murder, jailbreak and spying.

Badie, spiritual guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, was handed death sentence in another case for ordering the murder of 10 people in Cairo in 2013.

In January 2010, Badie was elected the Muslim Brotherhood's eighth chief since its foundation in 1928 after a dispute between ideologically focused conservatives and reformists.

He also received two other life sentences in cases respectively related to espionage for a foreign country and violence.

Morsi himself is currently serving a 20-year sentence for inciting deadly clashes between his supporters and opponents in late 2012, and a 25-year jail term for leaking classified documents to Qatar.

## British Academic Says UAE Asked Him to Spy on Britain

LONDON (Sputnik) – Matthew Hedges has spoken out in an interview with The Times, shedding light on his ordeal and attempts by the Emirati government to force him to spy on the UK, revealing he had a panic attack after they demanded he steal classified Foreign Office documents.

"I started having a panic attack. I was like, 'How am I supposed to get this information?'"

Hedges also revealed he suffered seizures and was threatened by

interrogators in sessions which lasted up to 15 hours, ultimately convincing him to confess to a crime he didn't commit.

Moreover, the British academic said he was repeatedly questioned about his PhD thesis, which examined the UAE's post-Arab Spring security apparatus.

The 31-year-old was handed a life sentence on November 21 but was pardoned and released just a week later due to mounting international pressure and outrage.

He swiftly returned to the UK where he was reunited with his wife, Daniela Tejada, who campaigned for his release and, following his sentencing, accused the British government of prioritizing its relations with the UAE over "a British citizen's rightful freedom and welfare."

The couple are now considering legal action against the UAE government, mulling over their options to file complaints to both national bodies and the UN.

## UN: Daesh Executing Local Residents in Syria's Dayr al-Zawr

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, has warned against the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria's troubled eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr, saying that Daesh terrorists are putting local residents to death.

Speaking to a news conference in the Swiss city of Geneva on Wednesday, Bachelet voiced deep concern for 7,000 civilians, whom she said had been caught between Daesh terrorists preventing them from evacuating Dayr al-Zawr, located 450 kilometers northeast of the capital Damascus, and U.S.-led coalition airstrikes.

"We also have reports of Daesh executing people perceived as cooperating with SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) or other parties to the conflict," she said.

The high-ranking UN official went on to say that civilians in Dayr al-Zawr province are being used as "pawns and bargaining chips" in the conflict.

Meanwhile, the Syrian government forces neutralized 23 members of the Daesh terror group in the desert to the east of the Syrian city of Homs, local media reported Wednesday.

According to the Ikhbariya broadcaster, the military ambushed the terrorists between Bir al Halba and Bir as Safania.

In November, a bomb detonated in a bus in the Syrian city of Homs, leaving reportedly at least eight people injured.

Before Homs was liberated from terrorists, the local neighborhood had been one of the most vulnerable areas in the city, being frequently rocked by terrorist attacks and shelling.

The government troops have also thwarted an attempt by a group of foreign-sponsored Takfiri militants to sneak into Kinsabba town in the country's western coastal province of Latakia.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that army soldiers engaged in a fierce exchange of gunfire with the Takfiris, leaving scores of them killed and injured.

A military source, requesting not to be named, said the slain militants hailed from Ain al-Haour area, situated only five kilometers north of Kinsabba, and were planning to attack a military position.

Syria has been engulfed in an armed conflict since 2011. In late 2017, the victory over the Daesh terrorist group was declared in Syria and Iraq, with some territories of the two countries still being cleared of terrorists with the assistance of the Russian forces. The main efforts in Syria are currently focused on political settlement and post-war reconstruction of the country.