

CAIRO (Reuters) -- The Arab Parliament urged the Arab League Friday to reinstate Syria's membership, which was suspended seven years ago, Egypt's state news agency said.

The Arab Parliament's call is a sign that the Arab League may move to reinstate Syria after it was suspended in November 2011. For Syria to be reinstated, the Arab League must reach a consensus, though some Arab countries may express reservations but nevertheless allow the move.



TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran hailed as a positive step an initial accord reached among Yemen's warring parties to halt fighting for the Houthi-held port city of Hodaydah and withdraw their troops.

"Iran welcomes the agreement ... and hopes it will pave the way for the next round of dialogue for concluding a final accord among Yemeni groups," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying by TV.

VOL NO: LV 10772 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Saturday, December 15, 2018, Azar 24, 1397, Rabi as-Sani 7, 1440, Price 20000 Rials

Salehi: Iran Not Bluffing About Enrichment



Iran to Repatriate 1784 Clay Tablets From U.S.



FIFA Won't Be Bound by Politics Over Sharing Qatar WC



Turkey Threatens to Enter Syria's Manbij



France Deploys Thousands of Troops Yellow Vest Protests Spread to London

LONDON/PARIS (Dispatches) -- Demonstrators donning yellow vests took over three bridges in central London Friday as they demanded Britain's exit from the EU.

Campaigners chanting "Brexit now" stopped cars from crossing Westminster Bridge, Tower Bridge and then Waterloo Bridge as British Prime Minister Theresa May held crunch talks with EU leaders in Brussels.

People wearing yellow vests similar to those worn during protests in France gathered by the Houses of Parliament at noon to first occupy Westminster Bridge.

The protestors were eventually moved on by police after about 15 minutes before heading to Downing Street, where they chanted pro-Brexit songs before moving on to Tower Bridge.

The group wore yellow jackets, reminiscent of the gilet jaune movement in France, in which demonstrators donning yellow vests have brought Paris to a standstill on consecutive weekends this month over minimum wage and tax complaints.

France will deploy tens of thousands of police nationwide and around 8,000 in Paris Saturday to handle a fifth weekend of "yellow vest" protests despite concessions by President Emmanuel Macron.

The chief of police in Paris said concerns remained about violent groups infiltrating the protests. Anti-riot officers will protect landmarks such as the Arc de Triomphe and prevent people getting close to the presidential palace.

"We need to be prepared for worst-case scenarios," police chief Michel Delpuech told RTL radio.

The capital has seen heavy disruption over the past three weeks when major stores shut, hotels suffered cancellations and tourists stayed away during the usually busy run-up to Christmas.

Nicknamed "Acte V" of the protests, the yellow vest demonstrators will take to the streets this weekend as France recovers from an unrelated attack on a Christmas market in the eastern city of Strasbourg on Tuesday, when a gunman shot and killed three people and wounded several others.

Hundreds of police officers were redeployed to Strasbourg to search for the gunman, who was shot dead in an exchange of fire Thursday evening.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said it was time for the yellow vests to scale down their protests and accept they had achieved their aims. Police officers also deserved a break, he added.

"I'd rather have the police force doing their real job, chasing criminals and combating the terrorism threat, instead of securing roundabouts where a few thousand people keep a lot of police busy," he said.

The protests have taken a toll on the economy, with output in the last quarter of the year set to be half initial projections, while Macron's concessions are likely to push the budget deficit above an EU agreed limit.

The yellow vest movement began as a protest against fuel taxes and then grew into an anti-Macron alliance.

Many people wearing the high-visibility motorists' safety jackets which are the symbol of the protests were manning barricades outside cities Friday.

Yemenis Win First Victory Against Invaders



Yemen's pro-Saudi negotiator Khaled al-Yamani (2nd L), UN chief Antonio Guterres (C) and Houthi negotiator Muhammad Abdelsalam (4th R) pose during peace consultations taking place in Rimbo, Sweden, on Dec. 13, 2018.

RIMBO, Sweden (Dispatches) -- Yemen's warring parties agreed Thursday to cease fighting for the Houthi-held port city of Hodaydah and withdraw their troops, the first significant breakthrough for UN-led peace efforts in five years of conflict.

At the close of a week of talks in Sweden, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said a framework for political negotiations would be

discussed at the next round of talks at the end of January between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed loyalists of former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi.

The Houthis control most towns and cities including the capital Sanaa.

UN envoy Martin Griffiths said both parties would withdraw "within days" from the port, main entry point for most of Yemen's

commercial imports and aid supplies, and later from the city of Hodaydah, where coalition troops have massed on the outskirts.

International monitors will be deployed in Hodaydah city, and all armed forces are due to pull back completely within 21 days of the ceasefire coming into force.

Another joint committee overseen by the UN will set up humanitarian corridors to Tai'zz,

Yemen's third city. Guterres said the UN would push on with tackling issues hanging over from the talks, including reopening Sanaa airport and shoring up the central bank.

Yemen's Houthi movement said the ceasefire is a victory for the war-torn country as it will stop Saudi attacks on the strategic city of Hodaydah.

Based on the deal, "the existing local authorities will be officially in charge of controlling the city and establishing security there under the supervision of the UN," Houthi chief negotiator Muhammad Abdulsalam told Al-Masirah TV.

He said Hodaydah must be kept apart from the military conflict, and that a government should be formed first before all parties are disarmed.

Forces loyal to Hadi and the Saudi-led mercenaries were forced to sit for talks with the Houthi movement after their massive operation to seize the port city of Hodaydah failed.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had deployed about 10,000 troops to Yemen's west coast after repeated campaigns to seize Hodaydah were thwarted by the Houthis and their allies.

(Continued on Page 7)

Palestinian Resistance Alive in West Bank: Zionists Go on Wild Crackdown After Troops Killed

RAMALLAH, Palestine (Dispatches) -- The occupying regime of Israel's forces shot and killed a Palestinian man during clashes Friday in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian health officials said.

The clashes followed a surge of violence Thursday when a Palestinian gunman killed two Zionist troops, and Israeli forces killed two Palestinians whom it blamed for earlier deadly attacks. Israeli forces also killed two Palestinians that the occupying regime said had tried to carry out attacks.

On Friday Palestinians gathered in protest in the West Bank, throwing stones at Zionist forces, witnesses said. One Palestinian, aged 18, was killed by Israeli fire, health officials said.

Israel ramped up its raids across the occupied West Bank, kidnapping dozens of Palestinians during a crackdown overnight.

"Forces apprehended 40 suspects wanted for their involvement in terror activities, popular terror, and violent riots

targeting civilians and security forces," the Zionist military said in a statement.

It claimed 37 of those arrested were known to be members of the Palestinian resistance movement of Hamas, which administers the Gaza Strip.

Two Israeli troops were killed after an attacker emerged from a vehicle and shot at soldiers near the settlements of Beit El and Ofra on Thursday. At least two other people, including a soldier, were wounded and the attacker fled.

The attack prompted the occupying regime to deploy troops to the West Bank, setting up checkpoints and blocking roads. Four Palestinians, including a female minor, were detained in the immediate aftermath of the incident.

The alleged shooting came after Israeli forces killed three Palestinians in separate operations over the span of six hours.

In total six people were killed in the most violent 24 hours to hit the West Bank and Jerusalem Al-Quds in months.

(Continued on Page 7)

Middle East Eye: MBS Plans Camp David-Style Meeting With Netanyahu

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is reported to be "seriously considering" setting up a "game-changing" Camp David-style summit meeting with Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu, with U.S. President Donald Trump playing host, Middle East Eye reported on Friday.

The crown prince, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, has asked the emergency task force he created to deal with the fallout from the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi to look at the idea, sources in the kingdom with close knowledge of the discussions told the leading online news outlet.

The plan is to present the crown prince, who is widely accused of involvement in Khashoggi's killing, as a breakthrough Arab peacemaker in the mould of the former Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat.

Sadat shook hands with Zionist PM Menachim Begin in 1978 in a meeting hosted by U.S. President Jimmy Carter at Camp David.

The meeting led to Egypt becoming the first Arab state to recognize Israel and a peace treaty between the two sides. Sadat was assassinated in 1981.

Muhammad bin Salman believes that the photo opportunity alone would be big enough to influence the incoming and inherently more hostile U.S. Congress in January.

The Democrats gained control of the House of Representatives in November's midterm elections, while several Republican senators said last week it was "clearer than ever" that the crown prince, commonly known as MBS, ordered Khashoggi's murder, after they were briefed by CIA chief Gina Haspel.

The U.S. Senate delivered a rare double rebuke to President Donald Trump on Saudi Arabia on Thursday, voting to end U.S. military support for the war in Yemen and blame the Saudi crown prince for the murder.

(Continued on Page 7)