

Nationwide Protests in Bahrain Mark 9th Anniversary of Uprising

MANAMA (Press TV) – Thousands of people have staged nationwide demonstrations across Bahrain on the eve of the ninth anniversary of the popular uprising against the ruling Al Khalifah dynasty.

Demonstrators took to the streets in the capital Manama as well as the village of Sanabis, which lies in the suburbs of Manama, the northwestern village of Diraz, located about 12 kilometers (seven miles) southeast of the capital, Bilad al-Qadeem suburb of Manama and the village of Tubli, west of the island of Sitra.

They called for the immediate release of the 54-year-old prominent Shia cleric and secretary general of the dissolved al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, Sheikh Ali Salman, and other political prisoners.

On January 28, 2019, the Supreme Court of Bahrain upheld a life sentence against the Shia opposition leader over charges of spying for Qatar.

According to a statement released by the public prosecutor, the court confirmed the verdict against Salman and his aides Ali al-Aswad and Hassan Sultan for “spying for a foreign state in order to ... overthrow the government.”

The London-based Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy condemned the ruling at the time.

“This is political revenge and an insult to justice,” said Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, the group’s director of advocacy.

“Punishing peaceful dissidents for leading protests against the corrupt ruling family has nothing to do with justice. This verdict shames Bah-



People participate in an anti-regime demonstration in the village of Tubli, Bahrain, on the ninth anniversary of the popular uprising against the ruling Al Khalifah regime, February 14, 2020.

rain’s rulers and their allies ..., namely the U.S. and UK.”

The trio had been initially acquitted by the high criminal court, but the decision was later overturned by an appeals court on November 4, 2018.

Demonstrations in Bahrain have been held on a regular basis ever since a popular uprising began in mid-February 2011.

The participants demand that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow a just system

representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama, however, has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent.

On March 5, 2017, Bahrain’s parliament approved the trial of civilians at military tribunals in a measure censured by human rights campaigners as tantamount to imposition of an undeclared martial law in the country. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah ratified the constitutional amendment on April 3, 2017.

Palestinians to Ask for Closure of Companies in Zionist Settlements

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestinians will address letters next week to various countries asking them to close their companies that are working in Zionist settlements in the West Bank, a senior Palestinian official has announced.

Saeb Erekat, secretary general of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee said the letters will be directly addressed to Britain, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, and Thailand asking them to shut down their companies.

“Companies in the United States will be directly addressed to close down because ties with the American administration have been severed,” Erekat told reporters in Ramallah.

He added that the Palestinian side “will prosecute these com-

panies in the international courts and request financial compensation for using the Palestinian resources and working in settlements.”

On Wednesday, the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (UNHCHR) published a report, which unveiled the names of international companies and factories that work in the Zionist settlements in the West Bank.

“Publishing the report and unveiling the companies is a victory for the Palestinian rights and for the international law,” said Erekat.

The Zionist regime suspended its ties with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet in an angry reaction to her office’s publication of the

long-anticipated list of over 100 firms active in settlements built on occupied Palestinian land.

Zionist foreign minister Israel Katz’s office said that he had ordered “exceptional and harsh measure” in response to Bachelet’s office “serving the BDS campaign,” referring to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement —an international campaign promoting various forms of boycott against the Tel Aviv regime until it meets its obligations under international law.

It also noted that the Zionist foreign minister intends to protect the companies operating in the occupied territories.

Of the entities listed, 94 are domiciled in the occupied lands and 18 in the U.S., France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Thailand

and the UK.

The database took almost four years to complete, after being mandated in a resolution passed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2016.

The resolution urged the OHCHR to produce a “database for all businesses engaged in specific activities related to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.”

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the UN list as the work of a “biased and uninfluential body.”

“Instead of dealing with human rights, this body is trying to blacken Israel’s name. We reject any such attempt in the strongest terms and with disgust,” he said in a statement. “Whoever boycotts us will be boycotted.”

Election... (Continued From Page One)

Bagher Qalibaf, a former mayor of the capital.

Interior Minister Abdol-Reza Rahmani-Fazli said on Thursday inspection teams assigned by his ministry are comprehensively monitoring the electoral process against any potential fraudulent activity.

Last year, the parliament objected to a motion to increase the number of the elective seats, keeping it at 290. The elections are held every four years.

According to the interior minister, more than 91 percent of the hopefuls have been approved by the Guardian Council.

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as a pretext to attack Israel, because Israel played a role in the martyrdom of General Soleimani,” he said, blaming the Zionist regime for tipping off the Americans to Gen. Soleimani’s location.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said last week that Iran would support Palestinian resistance movements as much as it could and urged Palestinians to confront a U.S. plan catering to every wish of the occupying regime of Israel.

On Thursday, Iranian national TV aired an interview with Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in which he described a close relationship with Gen. Soleimani, highlighting the key role the charismatic general played in helping build up Hezbollah’s rocket arsenal as well as his role in military operations during Hezbollah’s war with the occupying regime of Israel in 2006.

Gen. Soleimani also played an important role in Iraq’s battle against Daesh, Nasrallah said, and asked for Hezbollah operational commanders to work with Iraqi security forces in battling the Takfiri group when they first blazed across large swathes of Iraq in 2014.

Nasrallah said the U.S. crossed the red lines with its assassination, emphasizing that the incident changed all regional equations.

“The Americans must know that they have crossed all red lines and changed regional equations by assassinating Gen. Soleimani. The event has pitted the ‘axis of resistance’ and regional nations against the United States,” he said.

Nasrallah said the assassination of the top Iranian commander helped the entire Muslim Ummah discern their worst enemy, namely the Great Satan which is the United States.

Separately, Gen. Soleimani urged Iranians to support Ayatollah Khamenei and said political factions should put aside their differences. He made the call in his will, which

was read by the new Quds Force chief, Brigadier General Esmail Qa’ani, at a ceremony in Tehran.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of people in Iraq and Pakistan held ceremonies to mark the 40th day after the martyrdom of Gen. Soleimani and Muhandis.

Iraqi people from various governorates flocked to the holy city of Najaf on Friday to pay tribute to the martyrs.

The Iraqis, coming from Baghdad, Dhi Qar, Basra, Maysan, Karbala, Wasit, Diyala, Nineveh, Saladin, and al-Qadisiyyah governorates, headed to Wadi-us-Salaam cemetery close to the holy shrine of Imam Ali (AS) in Najaf in order to visit the tomb of Muhandis.

The huge crowds of people chanted “Death to America” and “Death to Israel”, carrying the flags of Iraq and anti-terror resistance groups as well as photos of al-Muhandis and General Soleimani.

Also on Friday, a huge number of Pakistanis came all the way from the city of Karachi to the Iranian city of Kerman, where General Soleimani is laid to rest.

The Pakistani mourners believe what General Soleimani has done is unprecedented in the history of mankind, and they feel duty-bound to follow his path.

On Thursday, thousands of Iranians gathered at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Grand Prayer Grounds to mark 40 days since the martyrdom of Gen. Soleimani and his companions.

U.S. ... (Continued From Page One)

Palestine to meet Mossad chief Yossi Cohen in October, where he was briefed on Iran’s de-escalation talks with Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Cohen warned Pompeo that Tehran was effectively on the verge of achieving its “primary goal” of breaking up the so-called “anti-Iran” alliance.

In early January, General Soleimani was assassinated on Trump’s order while on a formal visit to Baghdad.

According to former Iraqi prime minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, General Soleimani was due to formally meet him and carrying Tehran’s response to a message from Riyadh regarding de-escalation talks.

Following the attack, the Trump administration claimed that the assassination came after a rocket attack on a U.S. base in Iraq killed a civilian contractor and that Gen. Soleimani was an “imminent threat” to U.S. citizens.

Many U.S. politicians have rejected the claims and questioned why the Trump administration has failed to provide any evidence backing its actions.

The chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee on Friday blasted the Trump administration for claiming in a new report that it had authority to order the as-

sassination under Congress’s authorization in 2002 for the use of military force against Iraq.

Rep. Eliot Engel, the committee’s chairman, argued that the administration’s new report to Congress about the Jan. 3 attack “directly contradicts the President’s false assertion that he attacked Iran to prevent an imminent attack against United States personnel and embassies.”

“The administration’s explanation in this report makes no mention of any imminent threat and shows that the justification the President offered to the American people was false, plain and simple,” said Engel in a prepared statement.

He and other Democrats already were skeptical about Trump’s legal rationale for the attack without prior authorization from Congress.

The New York Times on Thursday also revealed that entirely different considerations, such as Israel’s push to undermine Iran’s attempts at peace with its regional neighbors, were behind the assassination.

According to the report, the assassination marks yet another miscalculation by the Trump administration.

Syrian... (Continued From Page One)

The advances have alarmed supporters of terrorists, including the U.S., Turkey and the occupying regime of Israel.

Ankara, which has troops illegally deployed in several locations in northern Syria, continues to support militant groups battling government troops or acting as proxies against Kurdish forces.

It has sent reinforcements to the northwest in recent weeks to contain the latest push by Damascus, leading to a series of tit-for-tat exchanges between their forces.

The deadly clashes, the latest of which saw government shelling kill five Turkish troops this week, are the most serious since Ankara first sent forces to Syria in 2016.

Base 46 was among the positions where Turkish troops have recently deployed but they pulled out of the area late Thursday, making way for the government takeover, the Observatory said.

With Base 46 recaptured, government forces are now within two kilometers (little more than a mile) of the town of Urum al-Kubra and five kilometers (three miles) from the deserted town of Atareb, according to the monitor.

A Syrian military helicopter was shot down on Friday, killing its entire crew, state media said, in the second such incident this week.

“At approximately 13:40 (1140 GMT), one of our military helicopters was hit by a hostile missile in the western countryside of Aleppo,” SANA said.

Idlib is dominated by Takfiri terrorists of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance and their allies.

SANA said the aircraft was downed near the town of Urum al-Kubra, where Turkey-backed militants operate, but did not say who was behind the attack.

The Observatory pinned it on Turkey, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility. The monitor said two pilots were killed.

The incident came just three days after another Syrian military helicopter was downed over Idlib province, killing at least three crew members.

Turkish media blamed the attacks on militants but the Observatory said Turkish troops had fired rockets at the aircraft over the village of Qaminas, southeast of Idlib city. Israeli strikes on Damascus airport killed seven people, the war monitor said Friday, the latest in a string of Zionist attacks targeting Syria.

Syrian state media said only that its air defenses intercepted missiles over the capital overnight.

The occupying regime of Israel routinely fires missiles at what it says are Iranian targets in Syria, but they always take Syrian lives.

Senate... (Continued From Page 2)

United States and Iran since 2018 when Trump withdrew from a denuclearization accord negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama and imposed sweeping sanctions aimed at reducing Tehran’s regional clout.

The Senate defeated a motion by Senator Tom Cotton, a vociferous opponent of Iran, to gut the resolution by exempting any military action directed at “designated terrorist organizations.”

Eight Republicans -- all of whom voted to acquit Trump in his impeachment trial -- joined the Democrats.

Senator Susan Collins, a closely watched moderate Republican, said the resolution will show that “no president has the authority to commit our military to a sustained

conflict.”

Among other Republicans who voted yes was Mike Lee, who said a classified session by the Trump administration after the assassination of Gen. Soleimani was uninformative and the “worst” military briefing he has ever received.

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immediately using the Iranian Information Technology Fortress, known as DEJFA, it still affected several service providers in Iran, including two notable mobile operators.

DDoS attackers normally use hijacked or virus-infected computers to target websites. During such attacks, websites become unreachable after an unusually large number of requests for information are sent to them, causing the servers that host them to fail.

Iran had previously reported cyber attacks sponsored by the United States and the Israeli regime that has targeted its key information infrastructure.

DDoS attacks in September targeted Iranian websites that were involved in cryptocurrency trade. Authorities said those attacks were 20 times more powerful than similar attacks in other countries.

Zionist Regime... (Continued From Page 2)

According to recent remarks by Major General Mohsen Rezaei, a top IRGC general and the secretary of Iran’s Expediency Council, Israel had a direct role in the assassination by informing Washington of Gen. Soleimani’s flight to Baghdad.

“We were searching for the Americans to give us an excuse to hit Tel Aviv just as we hit Ain al-Assad,” Rezaei said. “We would have leveled Tel Aviv no doubt,” he added.

Speaking on Thursday, Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Major General Hussein Salami responded to Bennett’s remarks about dividing roles with the U.S. against Iran.

“We tell them that you are making a mistake, as always,” he said, adding that “if you make the slightest error, we will hit both of you”. “We have told them repeatedly; do not rely on the United States, they may not be able to help you,” he said. “If you want a reliable plan, look towards the sea as it is your final resting place,” he added.

The IRGC chief made the remarks during a ceremony marking the 40th day since the assassination of General Soleimani.

During the ceremony, Salami said that Gen. Soleimani’s efforts had greatly emboldened Palestinian resistance against Israel. “When he entered the battlefield against the Zionists, the Palestinians were fighting with stones, but due to Gen. Soleimani’s efforts, Gaza, the West Bank and north of Palestine have become fields of fire against the Zionists,” Salami said.

“They have consequently concealed themselves behind walls; Gen. Soleimani put the Zionists in prison,” he added.

Salami added that Gen. Soleimani had defeated Washington’s plans for a “new Middle East”, noting that due to the general’s efforts, a multi-national force has emerged in the region to resist U.S. and Israeli plans.

“General Soleimani generated so much power that if the Zionists only listen slightly next to the their borders, they can hear the languages of Pakistanis, Iranians, Hijazis, Lebanese...,” he said.

The IRGC chief lauded Gen. Soleimani’s legacy of defending “the downtrodden, wherever they were”, adding that the “deserts knew him more than the streets”.

“The Hindu Kush ranges, the Bamiyan and Panjshir valleys in Afghanistan knew him better than the Afghans,” Salami added.

Salami concluded his remarks saying that “the final and ultimate slap will continue until the last American soldier leaves the Muslims land” despite Iran’s military retaliation against Washington following the assassination of Gen. Soleimani.

Iran fired a volley of ballistic missiles at the Ain al-Asad airbase and another U.S.-occupied outpost in Erbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan on January 8, a few days following the assassination.

Despite the Trump administration initially denying any casualties, the Pentagon has since gradually revealed that at least over 100 U.S. soldiers have suffered from “brain injuries” in the operation.

Speaking on Thursday, IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif said that Washington has sought to conceal the number of its killed soldiers by using the term “brain injury” to describe casualties.

Sharif added that the assassination of Gen. Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis - who was the second-in-command of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units - “marked the beginning of the end of U.S. presence in the region” and that it will lead to the liberation of Jerusalem Al-Quds.