

Palestinians Urge Demos, Strike Against U.S.-Led Conference

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Palestinian factions have called for demonstrations and a general strike in protest at an upcoming U.S.-led conference in Bahrain, which centers on a controversial Washington-crafted "peace" plan. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party announced factions within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) umbrella group had called for the demos and the strike, Middle East News reported.

The factions have set June 24, a day ahead of the two-day conference, as the day when the rallies will begin across the Zionist-occupied West Bank and the blockaded Gaza Strip. The strike is planned to start across the Palestinian territories as the event begins in the Bahraini capital, Manama. The conference is meant



to offer economic incentives for the U.S.-devised plan, which Washington has called "Deal of the Century" and which it says would resolve the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict.

But, according to reports that have revealed the details of the plan, it ignores the Palestinians' rights and historical demands altogether.

The Palestinians, who would normally be one party to any deal on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, have rejected the plan based on the details that have emerged.

Detainees in Zionist Prison Stage Hunger Strike



ANKARA (Dispatches) - Dozens of Palestinian detainees in the Zionist Ashkelon prison staged an open-ended hunger strike on Sunday to

demand an improvement in their conditions, according to a Palestinian NGO, Anadolu Agency reported.

In a statement, the Ramal-

lah-based Palestinian Prisoner Society (PPS) said the hunger strike comes in protest of the prison administration's rejection to meet the detainees' demands regarding the right of exposure to sunlight, ending night-time cell raids and easing visit conditions for their families.

In April, hundreds of Palestinian detainees staged a hunger-strike for specific demands from the Zionist prison service.

Along with better living conditions and more family visits, hunger strikers then

demand the removal of cellphone-signal jammers from inside Zionist detention facilities and the installation of public telephones.

The prison service fulfilled some of their demands after which the prisoners halted their strike.

According to the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority's Committee for Prisoners' Affairs, the total number of Palestinians in Israeli custody currently stands at 5,700 — including numerous women and children.

Zionist PM's Wife Fined \$15,000 for Misuse of State Funds

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The wife of Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was sentenced on Sunday by Jerusalem's magistrate court to pay a \$15,000 fine for misusing state funds.

Sara Netanyahu has accepted a plea bargain with prosecution, settling the allegations that she had misused about 360,000 shekels (\$100,000) in state money to order meals from gourmet restaurants between 2010 and 2013, Sputnik reported.

"The deal reached between the sides is worthy and appropriately reflects the deeds and their severity on the criminal level", justice Avital Chen said in his ruling.

According to investigators, she knew she was breaking the rules prohibiting the PM's residence from ordering meals from outside, while the cook was on staff and tried to cover up her actions.

The wife of the Zionist prime minister previously refused to agree to pay the residence for the value of the meals and to admit to the accusations, while the Zionist PM stated that the claims against his wife were "absurd and unfounded".

Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, is facing separate cases against him, including allegations of bribery, fraud and breach of trust.



The wife of Zionist Prime Minister Sara Netanyahu

7 Militants Killed in South Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (Dispatches) -- A total of seven insurgents including their group commander were killed during a military operation in Kandahar province, south Afghanistan on Saturday, National Directorate of Security (NDS) or the country's prime intelligence agency said in a statement released on Sunday.

"During a special operation of the personnel of NDS launched in Maiwand district on

Saturday, seven rebels including their group commander were killed," the short statement said without providing more details.

Meanwhile, Afghan army troops seized a militants' container of arms and ammunition in the country's southern Uruzgan province, an official said Sunday.

The container, packed with various types of arms, walkie-talkie, explosive ordnances and hundreds of light arms' bullets, was dis-

covered and confiscated during an overnight operation in Dehyak area outside provincial capital Tirin Kot city, Khawja Yahya Alvi, an army spokesman in the southern region, told media.

According to the official, the Taliban militants were planning to use the arms and ammunition in high-profile attacks against government forces in the relatively restive province.

Pompeo... (Continued From Page One)

concrete evidence through various channels, including Foreign Minister Taro Kono who is likely to have made the request during a call with his counterpart on Friday, the sources said.

A source close to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, "These are not definite proof that it's Iran."

"Even if it's the United States that makes the assertion, we cannot simply say we believe it," he said.

If having expertise sophisticated enough to conduct the attack could be a reason to conclude that the attacker was Iran, "That would apply to the United States and Israel as well," said a source at the Foreign Ministry.

The attacks occurred around the time Abe was meeting with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

"The attacks have severely affected the prime minister's reputation as he was trying to be a mediator between the United States and Iran," said the source close to the premier. "It is a serious concern, and making mistakes when determining facts is impermissible."

The Japanese government has refrained so far from commenting on who is responsible for the attacks.

Intelligence organizations in Occupied Palestine and the West are accusing Iran of being responsible for Thursday's attack on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, as it was for other incidents in recent weeks in the area. But what they're not yet providing is evidence to prove it, Israel's Haaretz daily wrote on Sunday.

"And when we take into account historical precedents (notably the claims before the 2003 Iraq War that Saddam's regime possessed weapons of mass destruction), U.S. President Donald Trump's credibility problem and European concerns about an unnecessary war, it's no wonder the media chatter about the crisis is filled with skepticism," it said.

Trump... (Continued From Page One)

and discrimination that we as a community felt... it was devastating for people. And this is why our members feel that we cannot allow this and so we decided to boycott," Debbie Almontaser, co-founder of the Yemeni Association of Merchants (YAMA), told Middle East Eye.

Trump went one step further, tweeting a video montage of 9/11 interspersed with Omar's words. The video prompted widespread outrage.

Though White House spokesperson, Sarah Sanders, said the president had wished no ill will, Omar said that his tweet had increased the number of threats to her life.

Supporters of Omar have repeatedly argued that Omar has been attacked because of her identity as a black Muslim woman who dares to speak her mind in the corridors of power.

Omar, for her part, is not willing to back down.

"I stand undeterred to continue fighting for equal opportunity in our pursuit of happiness for all Americans," she said.

Though Omar has been repeatedly smeared by Republicans, she has also been let down by the Democratic Party, who have been slow to come to her defense.

Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-American activist based in New York, told MEE that the American Muslim community would not allow anyone to vilify their leaders.

"She is Somali-Black-Muslim, wears hijab, anti-war, [a] critic of the state of Israel, unapologetic, pro-immigrant, eloquent and fearless. She is everything I have dreamed about in a leader."

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

London have been strained in recent months, namely over the fate of an Iranian woman jailed on sedition charges.

London's move on Friday prompted the leader of the country's main opposition party to question whether the government had evidence to back up its accusations.

"Without credible evidence about the tanker attacks, the government's rhetoric will only increase the threat of war," Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn wrote on Twitter.

"Britain should act to ease tensions in the Persian Gulf, not fuel a military escalation that began with U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement," he said, referring to Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 pact.

Hunt, who is one of the leading candidates to succeed British Prime Minister Theresa May after she announced she would step down, described Corbyn's comments as "pathetic and predictable".

"Why can he never bring himself to back British allies, British intelligence or British interests?," Hunt said.

Hamas... (Continued From Page 2)

Jerusalem Al-Quds amid deadly Israeli crackdown on peaceful protests by Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Elsewhere in their meeting, the two sides exchanged views about ways to promote relations and emphasized that such meetings should continue to counter challenges and dangers emanating from the U.S. insistence on "the deal of the century," which has been rejected by all Palestinians and regional nations.

The two sides also discussed ways of countering other American and Zionist plots in the region, especially when they pertain to the issue of Palestine.

Palestinian Presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh on Saturday dismissed Trump's controversial proposal for "peace" between the Zionist regime and Palestinians, stressing that "the deal of the century" is "stumbling and changing its course."

"The American conspiracy has stumbled and is changing course. It is due to the Palestinian rejection (of the deal) and the clear position of the president (Mahmoud Abbas) vis-à-vis Al-Quds, refugees and the national constants. These issues form the cornerstone of the struggle that forced the conspiracy against the Palestinian people to falter. The Palestinian land is the cradle of history, heritage and religion. Al-Quds represents the spirit of this sacred existence," he said in a statement.