

Turkey Stands by S-400s, Says F-35 Partners Disapprove of U.S.

ISTANBUL (Dispatche) – Turkey has purchased Russian missile systems and is discussing a delivery date irrespective of any U.S. sanctions, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday, adding the United States is isolated as it also squeezes Turkey on F-35 jets.

The Pentagon announced earlier this month that training by Turkish pilots on F-35 fighter jets had been halted at a U.S. air base in Arizona following Turkey's purchase of Russian S-400 systems.

The NATO allies have been at loggerheads over the issue for months. Washington says the S-400 is incompatible with NATO's defense network and could compromise its F-35 fighter jets, an aircraft Turkey is helping to build and planning to buy.

Speaking at a news conference Ankara, Cavusoglu said partner nations in the F-35 jet program do not support the steps taken by the United States to halt pilot training.

"Whatever sanctions will be decided, whatever statement would

come from the United States, we have purchased S-400s and right now we are talking about when they will be delivered," Cavusoglu said.

Buying military equipment from Russia leaves Turkey vulnerable to U.S. retribution under a 2017 law known as the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday that he would discuss the issue with U.S. President Donald Trump at the G20 summit in Japan this week.

Citing three unnamed people familiar with the matter, English-language Bloomberg television news network, reported on June 19 that US President Donald Trump's administration is weighing three packages of sanctions against Turkey over S-400 purchase.

The sources underlined that the most severe package under discussion between officials at the National Security Council and the State and Treasury departments would all but cripple Turkey's



Russian S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile launchers roll down Red Square in Moscow, on May 4, 2019, during a nighttime rehearsal for the WWII Victory Parade.

troubled economy, and would be in addition to Ankara's exclusion from the F-35 fighter jet program.

The sanctions proposal with the most support would target several companies in Turkey's key defense sector under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

The U.S. Congress passed the CAATSA against Russia in August 2017 over allegations of

interfering in the 2016 presidential election. The law, among other things, imposes sanctions on countries and companies that engage in contracts to purchase weaponry from Russia.

Such sanctions would effectively sever Turkish firms from the U.S. financial system, making it almost impossible for them to buy American components or sell their products in the U.S.

As Mom Denied Access by Zionist Regime

Sick Gazan Newborns Die Alone in Hospital



Palestinian minor Youssef Abu Zarifa, wounded during clashes along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israeli-occupied territories, receives treatment at a hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on September 28, 2018.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – A Gazan mother says the Zionist regime denied her access to her three

ill newborn babies because her travel permit expired. Instead, she learned by phone that two of her

kids died, and waited months to see her surviving daughter.

Diagnosed with early labor, Hiba Swailam, 24, obtained a permit from the occupying regime to leave Gaza and travel to al-Quds, where she gave birth to seriously underweight triplets at Makassed Hospital. She could not stay with her children because the permit had expired, so the young mother was forced to return home.

"I told them I at least want to stay to breastfeed the babies, and they said 'No'," Hiba told RT, adding, "I kept crying. It wasn't easy for me to leave them. I didn't know if they would live or die, and I went home devastated."

As result, Hiba was not with her children when the two of them died at the hospital. She was informed of their death over

the phone instead. The surviving child had spent several months at the hospital away from her parents, before the regime's authorities issued a permit for the family to pick up the baby.

"I had to endure a lot of suffering and depression, but thank God, all of it went away when I saw my daughter," Hiba's husband, Mohammad, said.

Ghada Majadleh, who works for the medical NGO, Physicians for Human Rights – Israel, told RT that there is no specific time period for regime authorities to issue permits for Gazans to travel to the occupied territories for medical purposes, stating that the process can take anything from a month to over a year in some cases.

"The separation of the kids and their parents influences... their recovery and the process of treatment itself," she noted.

U.S. Cyber...

(Continued From Page One)

for Iran, Brian Hook, visited Oman and was headed to Europe to explain U.S. policy to allies. He told European reporters on a phone call ahead of his arrival that President Donald Trump was willing to sit down with Iran.

Mousavi dismissed those overtures as he hit out at contradictory American remarks, which he said, indicate a divide among U.S. government officials.

Throughout the recent crisis, Trump has wavered between bellicose language and actions toward Iran and a more accommodating tone, including an offer for negotiations. Iran has said it is not interested in a dialogue with Trump.

"Sometimes they list conditions and sometimes they remove those conditions. That is why we do not bother with overtures, nor do we count on them. Practical action is what matters to us," Mousavi said.

The spokesman reiterated Tehran's support for de-escalating tensions in the Persian Gulf region.

"Despite the ongoing pressures and rhetoric, diplomacy continues and diplomatic initiatives, either from Iran or from regional and trans-regional countries, are underway to reduce tensions in the region," he said.

U.S.-Iran relations have deteriorated over the past year since the United States abandoned a 2015 agreement between Iran and world powers designed to curb Iran's nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions.

Russia ...

(Continued From Page One)

lawmaker. Representative Michael McCaul of Texas, the top GOP member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on Sunday egged on the Trump administration's efforts.

"We want them to be more desperate," McCaul said on CBS's "Face the Nation" news program. "We want them to have their economy crippled" so Iranian leaders will negotiate, he said.

But with little left to sanction, added punishments would be mostly symbolic and "risk Iran escalating in retaliation," Harrell said.

Iranian authorities have already said new sanctions show that Trump's call for negotiations -- repeated over the weekend -- was hollow.

Navy...

(Continued From Page One)

a wide range of activities such as additional cyberattacks, clandestine operations aimed at disabling boats, and covert operations inside Iran aimed at fomenting more unrest, it said. The United States might also look for ways to divide or undermine the effectiveness of Iranian allies, officials said.

The CIA has longstanding secret plans against Iran, the Times said. Senior officials, it said, have discussed with the White House options for expanded covert operations by the agency, as well as plans to step up existing measures to counter Iran, according to current and former officials.

One former American military commander said there was a range of options that the Pentagon and the CIA could pursue that could keep Iran off balance but that would not have "crystal-clear attribution" to the United States.

The types of responses the United States could undertake are broad if the United States was willing to use the same tactics that Iran has mastered, said Sean McFate, a professor at the National Defense University and the author of "The New Rules of War."

"If we want to fight back, do it in

the shadows," he said.

McFate said the United States would create an incentive for mercenary forces to take on Hezbollah and other resistance movements. American intelligence forces also could find new ways to assist protests against the Iranian government. Such efforts could include spreading information, either embarrassing truths or deliberate false rumors, aimed at undermining the support that Tehran's elites have for Iran's leaders, he said. The United States could also look at ways to make protests by Iran's labor movement more effective at weakening the government, the New York Times said.

Iran, UK...

(Continued From Page 2)

Araqchi also denounced a sit-in outside the Iranian embassy in London by Richard Ratcliffe, the husband Iranian national Nazanin Zaghari who is held in jail for spying.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's Judiciary will not be influenced by such acts of blackmail, and those convicted of espionage must serve their terms," he said.

On Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi Mousavi said Zaghari will serve out her five-year prison sentence, dismissing a call for her release by the British minister visiting Tehran.

"Mrs Zaghari is an Iranian. She has been convicted on security charges and is spending her sentence in prison," Mousavi said. "Iran does not recognize dual nationality," he said.

He also criticized Murrison who said Iran almost certainly bears responsibility for recent attacks on tankers in the Gulf of Oman.

"What (Murrison) said after the meetings was not constructive. It seems Britain is siding with America due to its domestic problems and Brexit crisis," Mousavi said.

Head of the Strategic Council of Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi expressed disappointment after meeting Murrison, saying the talks were "repetitive".

The British minister had the "usual talking points", Kharrazi said. These included saying a European payment mechanism to help Iran with US sanctions "will soon become operational, that Britain has always supported the JCPOA and has its own problems with America... such talks that have always been repetitive," he said.

Iraq, Iran...

(Continued From Page 2)

in the field to the Iraqi army," Heydari said.

He discussed the unbreakable spiritual connection of the countries. Most of the discussion appeared to center around shared religious devotion, as opposed to tactics, strategy and divisions. Iraq thanked Iran for its support during the war against Daesh and indicated that assistance might be welcomed in the fields of battlefield medical knowledge and snipers.

Heydari said the men discussed the need for Iran and Iraq to be closely connected in "political, defense, economic and cultural fields. Inshallah, these new ties and ideas will happen." They also discussed cooperation in training, artillery and airborne assault.

U.S....

(Continued From Page 2)

"It is necessary that the international community remain committed to the legitimate principle of shared responsibility and continue to provide technical assistance. This issue can herald a new chapter in the field of international cooperation in the fight against narcotics," Zarif pointed out.

'Saudi Soldier Shoots Dead Three Comrades'

RIYADH (Press TV) – A Saudi soldier has reportedly opened fire on his comrades at a military base in the kingdom's southwestern border region of Jizan, killing three of them before turning himself in to authorities.

The Arabic-language Sabq News news website, citing unnamed security sources, reported on Monday that the soldier, whose identity was not immediately known, opened fire on fellow soldiers at a base in the Abu Arish district of the region, located 966 kilometers south of the capital Riyadh.

The sources added that a personal conflict between the shooter and a staff sergeant had motivated him to kill his comrades.

The soldier turned himself in to security officials and handed over his assault rifle after the incident.

Jizan region police have yet to release an official statement about the shooting, and the circumstances surrounding it.

On April 21, four assailants targeted state security forces in Zulfi City, located about 260 kilometers north of Riyadh.

The London-based Arabic-language daily newspaper Asharq al-

Awsat reported that they had rammed a vehicle into a security barrier around the station in an attempt to gain entry.

Two gunmen then stepped out of the vehicle and opened fire, sparking a gun battle with police.

A third attacker attempted to flee but was also gunned down, while a fourth died as he tried to set off an explosive belt.

There were no immediate reports about casualties among the security personnel.

Militants have targeted security installations in Saudi Arabia for years.

Back in early April, two assailants were killed and two others got arrested in an attack on a security checkpoint in the oil-rich and Shia-populated Eastern Province.

Al-Arabiya television news network said the incident had occurred on Abu Haidriyah Highway, which links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia and extends to the Kuwaiti border. The assailants were reportedly attempting to evade the security checkpoint as they sought to flee the country.

Over Dozen Daesh Terrorists Killed in Northern Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) on Monday killed 14 Daesh terrorists in an operation in Iraq's northern province of Kirkuk, the Iraqi military said.

A force from the CTS conducted an operation to hunt down Daesh remnants in south of the provincial capital city of Kirkuk, some

250 km north of Baghdad, the media office of the Joint Operations Command said in a statement.

The operation resulted in the killing of 14 Daesh terrorists, the statement said without giving further details.

The security situation in Iraq was dramatically improved after Iraqi security forces

fully defeated the Daesh terrorists across the country late in 2017.

However, despite repeated military operations in rural and rugged areas in central and northern parts of the country, some Daesh terrorists are still active there and are carrying out frequent guerilla attacks against security forces and civilians.