

# Zionist MKs Slam U.S. House for Backing 'Two-State Solution'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A group of the Israeli parliament (Knesset)'s members have criticized the U.S. House of Representatives for approving a resolution against a global boycott campaign against the Zionist regime, which endorses a so-called two-state solution to the decades-long conflict with Palestine.

House Resolution 246 was passed by a 398-17 margin, with five abstentions on July 23.

It opposes the international movement known as the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), but also backs the so-called two-state solution. The measure further reaffirmed strong support for "a negotiated solution" to the Zionist-Palestinian conflict resulting in "a viable, democratic Palestinian state."

In a letter sent to four U.S. Congressmen who co-sponsored the resolution, 21 Israeli lawmakers argued that the measure contains a "grave error" and that the "two-state" bid is "far more dangerous" than the BDS.



Palestinian demonstrators gather near the Gaza fence on May 15, 2019, during a protest marking 71st anniversary of the Nakba Day (the Day of Catastrophe).

"Israel is grateful to all our wonderful friends in Congress who stand with us on so many fronts. However, we would like to express to you our concern regarding the anti-BDS resolution (H. Res. 246)," read the letter.

"We believe it contains a grave error because it expresses, among other things, support for a so-called 'Two-State Solution,'

meaning the establishment of a 'Palestinian state'... We would like to make our position clear that the establishment of a Palestinian state would be far more dangerous to Israel than BDS," it added.

The BDS movement was initiated in 2005 by over 170 Palestinian organizations and later turned international. It is meant to initiate "various forms of boycott

against Israel until it meets its obligations under international law" and end its occupation of the Palestinian lands.

In a bid to force the Tel Aviv regime to withdraw its claim from the Palestinian territories, many countries have banned the sale of goods produced in the illegal settlements.

Elsewhere in their letter, the Israeli lawmakers said that the push for the establishment of a Palestinian state contradicts U.S. President Donald Trump's position on the matter.

They also claimed that creating a sovereign Palestinian state would "severely damage" both Israel's and America's national security.

The Israeli legislators further urged their American colleagues to refrain from endorsing the "two-state solution" in the future.

"The affirmation of support for establishing a Palestinian state is so dangerous that we respectfully request that you take that into consideration," they added.

## Syrian Army Gets Closer to Terrorists' Base in Khan Shaykhun

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian Army continued its advances towards the city of Khan Shaykhun, the main bastion of Tahrir al-Sham terrorist group and took control of a region as government forces dispatched new military convoy to southern Idlib.

The Syrian Army troops, backed by artillery and missile units, engaged in fierce clashes with Tahrir al-Sham terrorists in the town of Sakik in southern Idlib and took control of the town of Tal Ra'i.

A military source, meantime, pointed to the Syrian Army advances towards the town of al-

Tamaneh in southern Idlib from Tal Ra'i, and said that the Syrian Army troops attacked defense lines of Tahrir al-Sham in al-Tamaneh.

The source noted that al-Tamaneh is the gate to Khan Shaykhun, and said that other Syrian troops are also advancing towards west of Khan Shaykhun from al-Hobait.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Army plans to lay siege on areas under the control of terrorists in northern Hama from two directions after reaching Khan Shaykhun.

The Syrian Army has dispatched a massive military convoy com-

prising tens of trucks carrying military equipment and elite forces to Sakik in Southern Idlib.

In a relevant development, the Syrian Army regained control of a strategic region and the nearby hills in southern Idlib.

The army forces, backed by artillery and missile fire, engaged in heavy clashes with Tahrir al-Sham terrorists in the town of al-Tamaneh in the eastern parts of Khan Sahykhoun on Saturday, taking back control of the strategic town of Sakik and adjacent hills.

Meanwhile, a field source said that other Syrian army troops also

clashed with terrorists in al-Latamineh and al-Habit in western Khan Shaykhun in southern Idlib, adding that the army intends to surround the terrorists in southern Idlib and facilitate the operations in Idlib and Hama by launching concurrent operations in several fronts, driving wedges to separate the region into several parts and cutting the terrorists' supply lines.

He added that the Syrian army has also dispatched a large number of forces and military equipment to Atshan, Abuda Ali and Abu Omar in eastern Hama and southern Idlib.

## Dozens Daesh Terrorists Killed in Attacks Across Iraq

BAGHDAD (Press TV) – Iraqi government forces, supported by fighters from allied Popular Mobilization Units, have carried out separate clean-up operations against remnants of the Daesh terrorist group across the country, killing dozens of the extremists in the process.

The media bureau of Popular Mobilization Units, better known by the Arabic word Hashd al-Sha'abi, said in a statement on Tuesday that Iraqi Air Force fighter jets launched an airstrike against a pickup truck as it was travelling along a road in the Hawi region east of Samarra, located 125 kilometers (78 miles) north of the capital Baghdad.

The statement added that the aerial raid was mounted following a tip-off about Daesh terrorists in the area, noting that eight terrorists were killed as a result.

The development came a day after the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) said in a statement that it had carried out a raid on Daesh hideouts in the desert of the country's western province of Anbar.

The statement said CTS troops pounded the positions of the extremist militants and clashed with them, leaving eight of them dead.

Later on, the troops searched the hideouts and found two would-be bombers wearing explosive belts, killing one of them. The other blew himself up without causing casualties among the troops, the statement

added. Moreover, a total of five Daesh militants were killed in two incidents in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala.

Sadiq al-Husseini, head of the security committee of the provincial council, said Iraqi army soldiers and Hashd al-Sha'abi fighters engaged in skirmishes with Daesh terrorists in the rugged area of Mutibjah, after the latter attacked their outposts there. Three Daesh militants were killed as a result.

Additionally, a CTS unit carried an operation at the edges of Himreen Lake in the northern part of Diyala and killed two Daesh terrorists.

A statement by the media office of the Joint Operations Command said on August 5 that the Iraqi army, police and Hashd al-Sha'abi units, backed by the Iraqi Air Force fighter jets, had launched the third phase of the Will of Victory Operation in eastern Diyala Province and Nineveh Province in the north.

The statement said the troops had begun search operations in rural areas near the towns of Miqdadiyah, Jalawla and Khanaqin in Diyala province.

Also in Nineveh province, the troops commenced an operation to clear the rugged areas of al-Atshanah and the mountain ranges of Badush and Sheikh Ibrahim in west and northwest of the provincial capital city of Mosul.

## 1 Killed, 29 Injured in Huge Explosion at Military Base in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – At least one person is killed and 29 others are wounded in a huge explosion at an ammunition depot in southern Baghdad, a medical source says.

"The powerful explosion in southern Baghdad killed one person and wounded 29 others," Sayf al-Badr, spokesman of Iraqi health Ministry said in a statement.

Al-Badr said earlier that some of the wounded people were admitted to al-Yarmouk and al-Mahmoudiyah hospitals, some 30 km south of Baghdad.

He added that most of the wounded people suffered minor injuries and some of them have already left the hospitals.

Al-Badr did not give further details about any casualty among the security forces inside the military base.

However, a source from Interior Ministry told Xinhua that no deaths among the security forces inside the base, but many suffered from slight injuries and burns.

Earlier, the source told Xinhua that an ammunition depot exploded inside a fed-

eral police military base, named Falcon, in Owerij area near the southern district of Doura.

The blast was followed by a series of explosions at the warehouse that sent a large amount of shrapnel to nearby houses, the source said, adding that fire engines and civil defense forces rushed to the scene to extinguish the fires in and around the scene.

The huge blast resulted in the wounding of several civilians and caused damage to the buildings, the source said.

### UK...

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The Persian Gulf tanker crisis has added to worsening hostilities since Washington pulled out of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with six powers, under which Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear work in return for lifting sanctions on Tehran.

The seized Iranian tanker was carrying a cargo of up to 2.1 million barrels of oil. The Stena Impero was impounded by Iranian forces on its way to the Persian Gulf.

Millions of barrels of oil pass daily through the various bottlenecks from Middle East oil producers to markets across the globe.

Eslami said Tehran has been making efforts towards securing the release of Grace 1. "We hope that the problem will be resolved in the near future and that the ship can continue sailing with the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

The Iranian official defended Tehran's confiscation on July 19 of the 30,000-tonne Stena Impero.

He said the UK and the U.S. used the confiscation as a pretext to propose the formation a maritime coalition aimed at Iran, which the official said is doomed to failure.

The British vessel had been involved in an accident with an Iranian fishing boat and had ignored its distress call, changing its route. It also switched off its tracking system and used the exit lane to enter the strategic strait.

### China...

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shifting American priorities on a list of demands that range from narrowing their trade surplus to opening markets to possibly scrapping their economic development strategy.

Talks broke down in May over how to enforce any settlement. Beijing says once it takes effect, Trump has to lift punitive 25% tariffs imposed on \$250 billion of Chinese imports. Washington insists the tariffs stay to enforce compliance because Beijing has broken too many past promises.

The tone of Chinese state media toward Trump, relatively mild to that point, turned nasty. The ruling Communist Party newspaper accused Washington of "American bullying."

Despite a June agreement by Trump and Xi for more negotiation, neither has shown willingness to compromise. A round of talks in Shanghai last month ended with no sign of progress.

Trump's demand for changes to Beijing's industrial policy strikes at the heart of a development strategy Communist leaders see as the basis of their economic success and a path to prosperity and global influence.

That includes initiatives to transform China into a global competitor in profitable technologies through nurturing champions in robotics, electric cars and other fields with subsidies and shielding them from competition.

Washington, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those violate Chinese market-opening commitments and are based on stealing or pressuring companies to hand over technology. Chinese officials retort that they are entitled to develop higher-value industries and have tried to deflect criticism by saying foreign companies might be allowed a role.

Chinese suspicions deepened when after the May talks, Trump imposed sanctions on telecom equipment maker Huawei Technologies Ltd., blocking its access to American technology. Trump cited security concerns but Chinese officials saw an attempt to cripple China's first global tech brand.

Washington is "using improper official measures to suppress Chinese enterprises," a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said last week.

Xi might feel more confident because, after facing accusations he bungled relations with China's biggest export market, he has strengthened his political position and silenced critics, said Willy Lam, a politics specialist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

A year ago, Xi felt threatened enough that he was "anxious to get this over with," said Lam. But now, he has gathered support and "can dig in for the long haul."

That would mark a return to Beijing's traditional "war of attrition" strategy of holding out — for a decade or more, if needed — to get what it wants from the United States, Europe and other partners.

China spent 12 years, longer than any other government, negotiating its 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization.

Eighteen years later, it still is dicker over terms for joining the Government Procurement Agreement, which extends WTO free-trade principles to official purchases.

"I'm not really surprised that they are doing this," said Leering. "I was more surprised that they had been so low-profile from 2017 onwards, when Donald Trump took office."

In a sign Beijing might be digging in, two veteran trade envoys — Commerce Minister Zhong Shan and one of his deputies, Yu Jianhua — were added in July to the delegation led by Vice Premier Liu He. Liu is Xi's economic adviser but has little experience in negotiations.

The government has told exporters to find new markets and replace American farm goods with imports from Russia, Brazil and other sources.

Xi also might be looking to the U.S. political calendar for leverage — a possibility Trump cited when he accused Beijing in July of stalling in hopes he would fail to win re-election next year.

Xi might not want to wait that long, because support in Washington for action against Beijing crosses party lines, say political analysts. But they said Chinese leaders might hope as Trump's campaign picks up, he will need a settlement to burnish his status as a trade warrior.

"Trump will want deals to show to the public," said ING's Leering. He said without that, Trump's track record of agreements with Canada, Mexico and South Korea looks "pretty meager" for a leader who made trade a cornerstone of his 2016 election campaign.

That means "in the end, the U.S. will be prepared to give in a bit more," he said.

China also might be holding out for a deal that lets it keep subsidizing technology industries and "cheating on intellectual property," said Lam. That might include retaining leverage to pressure foreign companies to give or license technology at low prices to Chinese competitors.

Letting the yuan slide to an 11-year low against the dollar on Aug. 5 reflects another traditional Chinese strategy: Showing an opponent that China can endure painful losses to get what it wants.

### Russia...

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Putin used his state-of-the-nation speech in 2018 to unveil what he described as a raft of invincible new nuclear weapons, including a nuclear-powered cruise missile, an underwater nuclear-powered drone, and a laser weapon.

Tensions between Moscow and Washington over arms control have been exacerbated by the demise this month of a landmark nuclear treaty. Russia says it is also concerned that another landmark arms control treaty will soon expire.

Russian fighter jets pushed away a NATO war plane after it tried to approach Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu's plane over neutral waters in the Baltic Sea, TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

The plane was flying from Kaliningrad to Moscow and was carrying a TASS reporter on board, the report said.

### Zakzaky ...

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According to the IMN, Sheikh Zakzaky is suffering from a number of medical conditions due to large amounts of "lead in his body from bullets".

A Nigerian court granted the Muslim cleric bail last week so that he could fly to India for treatment.

In December 2015, the cleric's home in Zaria was raided by security forces. During the raid, he was beaten and lost his left eye. His wife sustained serious wounds, and three of his sons and more than 300 of his followers were killed.

A litany of charges, including murder, was brought against Sheikh Zakzaky in April 2018. The Nigerian state he is responsible for an incident during which the Nigerian army chief's convoy allegedly came under attack by his supporters. Sheikh Zakzaky denies all the charges.

Last month, Sheikh Zakzaky's son, Muhammad, said that he was shocked by his father's worsening medical condition after visiting him, stressing that he needed to be immediately hospitalized as "large and dangerous quantities of lead and cadmium have been found in his blood."

On Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi wished a speedy recovery for Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife in India.

Mousavi also expressed hope that while the top cleric is abroad for treatment, a better chance could arise for the IMN and the Nigerian government to settle their differences. He said the Islamic Republic supports the resolution of differences and that Tehran is ready to offer any help to achieve that goal.