

Bahrain Signs Agreement to Purchase U.S. Patriot Missile

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahrain has signed an agreement to purchase an MIM-104 Patriot surface-to-air missile (SAM) system from the U.S. Army.

“This letter of offer and acceptance allows the U.S. government to begin contract negotiations with Raytheon for production of an undisclosed quantity of systems and missiles,” major U.S. military contractor and industrial corporation Raytheon Company said in a press release.

The release said the Patriot missile system will ensure that Bahrain is well equipped to defend against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and manned and unmanned aircraft.

On May 4, the U.S. State Department approved a possible \$6 billion worth of weapons sales to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in three separate packages.

The Manama regime was given



This file picture shows a MIM-104 Patriot surface-to-air missile (SAM) system.

the nod to potentially buy various Patriot missile systems and related support and equipment for an estimated cost of \$2.48 billion.

Bahrain is home to U.S. Navy’s 5th fleet, which not only backs up the regime’s survival militarily but also serves as a key base for Washington’s interests in the region.

Back on September 29, 2018, the

and Army Tactical Missiles System (ATACMS) Unitary missiles for an estimated cost of \$300 million, the Arabic-language al-Khaleej al-Jadeed news website reported.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established. Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

On March 5, 2017, Bahrain’s parliament approved the trial of civilians at military tribunals in a measure blasted by human rights campaigners as being tantamount to imposition of an undeclared martial law countrywide.

Bahraini monarch King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah ratified the constitutional amendment on April 3, 2017.

‘Turkish Drones Start Operating in Northern Syria’

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkish drones have started operating in northern Syria where Washington and Ankara have agreed to create a so-called safe zone, Turkey’s Defense Ministry said on Wednesday.

Turkey and the United States agreed last week to set up a joint operations centre regarding the safe zone to be established in northern Syria. No agreement has been announced on key details

such as the size of the zone and the command structure of joint patrols that would be conducted there.

A six-person U.S. delegation arrived in the southern Turkish province of Sanliurfa on Monday to work on the establishment of the operations centre.

The Defense Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that work was continuing to make the joint operations centre in Sanli-

urfa operational.

It added that Turkish drones had started carrying out work in the area where the safe zone will be created, but did not provide further information on the drones’ operations.

Washington and Ankara have been at odds over plans for northeastern Syria, where U.S. allies on the ground in the battle against Daesh include the Kurdish YPG militia, which Turkey considers

an enemy and a terrorist group.

The allies have been discussing a safe zone near the Turkish frontier that would be kept free of combatants and heavy weapons, but Turkey wants it to extend more than twice as far into Syrian territory as the United States has proposed.

Turkey has suggested it will act militarily if the United States fails to agree a solution that will safeguard the border.

Jailed Saudi Woman Rejects Release Deal Tied to Torture Denial

RIYADH (Press TV) – The family of prominent Saudi women’s rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul says she has dismissed a proposal to secure her release from prison in exchange for a video testimony denying that she had been tortured and sexually harassed in custody.

“The Saudi state security has visited my sister in prison recently. They have asked her to... appear on video to deny the torture and harassment. That was part of a deal to release her,” her brother Walid al-Hathloul, who is based in Canada, wrote on Twitter.

Walid went on to say that Loujain, who recently marked her 30th birthday in jail, had initially agreed to sign a document denying that she had been tortured, as a precondition for her release.

But state security officials recently visited her again in prison to ask her to make the denial she had been subjected to torture and harassment in a video as part of a release deal.

The family remained quiet recently in hopes the case could be resolved privately.

“Asking to appear on a video and to deny the torture doesn’t sound like a realistic demand,” Walid tweeted.

Her sister, Lina, separately said her sibling was under pressure to deny the torture claim.

“(I don’t know) what I’m risking by writing this. Maybe it will harm my sister. But I can’t keep it to myself,” she wrote on Twitter.

“Loujain has been proposed a deal: deny the torture and she’ll be free.

“Whatever happens I am certifying it (one) more time: Loujain has been brutally tortured and sexually harassed,” Lina pointed out.

Loujain al-Hathloul is among around a dozen renowned Saudi women’s rights activists, who are currently facing trial after being detained in a sweeping crackdown on political dissidents and pro-democracy campaigners last year.

She was among a number of detainees, who have accused interrogators of subjecting them to torture, including electric shocks, flogging and sexual assault in detention.

Saudi authorities have denied torture allegations, and said the arrests were made on suspicion of harming the interests of the ruling Riyadh regime and offering support to hostile elements abroad.

Hundreds of North American Immigrants Arrive in Israeli-Occupied Territories

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Nearly 250 new immigrants from the United States and Canada have arrived in the Israeli-occupied territories and been received by Zionist regime officials amid the cheering of hundreds of Zionist extremists, as opposed to the Tel Aviv regime’s controversial plan to expel thousands of African refugees.

On Wednesday, a total of 242 immigrants landed at Ben Gurion Airport on a special flight chartered by Nefesh B’Nefesh – an organization which promotes and facilitates Jewish immigration to the occupied territories from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, and facilitated in cooperation with Israel’s Aliyah and Integration Ministry, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth Le’Israel (KKL), and Jewish National Fund-USA.

The group of immigrants, which included 31 families, hail from Canada and over 20 American states, and plan to settle through-

out the Israeli-occupied lands.

Of the people, who decked out in Nefesh B’Nefesh caps and T-shirts, 41 plan to join the Israeli military as lone soldiers, and 103 are under the age of 18.

“You, the lone soldiers, I especially welcome. Welcome to Israel and welcome to the Israeli army... All of Israel embraces you today; we are all your family. Even if you are called ‘lone soldiers’ – you are not alone: We are always with you,” Sara Netanyahu, the wife of the Israeli prime minister, said.

The development comes as the Zionist regime’s authorities are mulling over the deportation of a Filipina migrant worker and her teenage son born in Israeli-occupied territories.

Rosemarie Perez was arrested by immigration officials along with her 13-year-old son, Rohan, last week for visa overstays.

A Tel Aviv administrative tribunal ruled

on Sunday that the two could be deported to the Philippines. They were taken to Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, but later taken off the plane.

This summer, the regime’s interior ministry’s Population and Immigration Authority is planning to deport dozens of Filipina workers, whose visas were not renewed after they had children in the occupied territories.

Some 600 families could now face expulsion over a loss of residency status, according to the United Children of Israel (UCI) association.

In January 2018, Israeli officials approved a plan that asked asylum seekers to choose between indefinite detention in an Israeli prison or deportation to a third country in Africa.

Of the roughly 40,000 asylum seekers in the occupied territories, Eritreans make up about 75 percent.

Sheikh...

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vehicles, deceiving the crowd while taking us out through another way, saying that it was for our own safety.

“On getting to the hospital, we were placed under a tighter security situation worse than what we have been witnessed in Nigeria. We are currently more confined than when we were in Nigeria, worse than a prison setting.

“Contrary to what was agreed before our arrival, that our own personal doctors would supervise this treatment. Now they’ve changed the arrangement. So, we objected receiving treatment from strange doctors without the supervision of our own trusted physicians,” he noted.

In the audio, the IMN leader said he wants to return to Nigeria to source for a reliable and trusted hospital among those countries that offered help.

“There are some other countries that volunteered to help which include Malaysia, Turkey,” Zakzaky said.

The IMN said Nigerian security agents were colluding with foreign security agents, who are believed to be working for the U.S. government.

It quoted a source as saying that before Sheikh Zakzaky’s arrival at New Delhi’s Madanta Hospital, officials from the American embassy in India had “threatened” the hospital’s management not to admit the clergyman.

“Even as the doctors were enthusiastically waiting to receive the Sheikh to save his life, the American secret agents have threatened the hospital officials not to go ahead to treat the Sheikh at the hospital,” the IMN said.

The group urged the international community to call on the Nigerian government “to stop playing with the life of” the senior Muslim cleric.

During the raid on the city of Zaria in 2015, the cleric lost his left eyesight and his wife also sustained serious wounds.

China...

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When the U.S. reimposed sanctions on Iran’s energy sector in November, China saw a chance for a trade-off with the United States.

Unidentified Chinese sources were quoted by Reuters as saying at the time that CNPC had convinced the US to continue investing in the North Azadegan and Masjid-i-Suleiman (MIS) oil fields in exchange for halting development of Phase 11.

The Chinese company allegedly convinced the US that it needed to continue investing in the two Iranian fields to recoup the billions of dollars spent under buy-back contracts signed years ago.

According to OilPrice.com, China said at the time that its ongoing activities on Yadavaran could be justified by dint of the fact that the original contract had been signed in 2007, long before the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal in May 2018 and subsequent reposition of sanctions.

With much of their initial qualms set aside in the face of an aggressive U.S. trade war, the Chinese are now seriously thinking of developing Yadavaran, the website said.

The third of China’s major unfinished projects in Iran was the buildout of the Jask oil export terminal, which does not lie within the Strait of Hormuz or even in the Persian Gulf, but rather in the Gulf Of Oman.

The project requires \$2 billion of investment to build a 1,000-kilometer pipeline to carry oil from Khuzestan province in southwest Iran to Jask in southern Hormozgan province and the Chinese are reportedly out to foot the bill.

The Jask terminal is about to have the capacity to store up to 30 million barrels and export one million barrels per day of crude oil.

Other plans are to build a large petrochemical and refining complex in Jask, with the prime market for produced substance, including gasoline, gas oil, jet fuel, sulfur, butadiene, ethylene and propylene, and monoethylene glycol, being China.

According to OilPrice.com, China

has offered to send engineers and other professionals required in the project.

Beijing has also braced for any fallout from its participation in Iranian development projects and possible face-off with the U.S., the website said.

“If there is any further pushback from the U.S. on any of these Chinese projects in Iran, then Beijing will invoke in full force the ‘nuclear option’ of selling all or a significant part of its \$1.4 trillion holding of U.S. Treasury bills, with a major chunk of the paper due to be sold in September on this basis,” it said.

The large-scale selling of Treasury bills is likely to trigger a dollar crash a huge spike in bond yields, the collapse of the housing market and stock market chaos, senior figures at China’s think tanks have warned.

Campaign...

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“The unique decentralized nature of cryptocurrencies means they cannot be controlled or supervised by any central authority,” they said in their statement.

“This will allow people from all over the world to donate to Iranian flood victims anonymously and quickly in spite of sanctions and other challenges.”

Making their case at a news conference held at the prestigious Sharif University in Tehran, they launched IranRescueBit on Tuesday.

“To help Iranian flood victims through our campaign, participants will first need to visit our website at this address: www.iranrescuebit.com,” the statement said.

“Participants who decide to send financial aid will be able to choose their preferred international cryptocurrency (Bitcoin, Ethereum and Litecoin at the moment) and send any chosen amount to a digital wallet address verified by the campaign,” it added.

According to the campaign, donors can remain completely anonymous, opting not to disclose their identity or even nationality, while no government or non-government entity will be able to identify them.

At specified intervals, attracted funds will be exchanged into Iran’s national currency, the rial, using credible local online exchanges. They will then be transferred to the local bank account of the IRCS transparently.

Participants can view the total donated amount live on the website at any given time, the campaign said.

FM Zarif...

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regime would be harboring delusions if it thinks it can defeat Hezbollah as the resistance movement has the capacity to paralyze the enemy.

“We will never take it at ease with an enemy that threatens our existence and role. We offer a lot of concessions internally, but we never lose sight of our enemy’s ... movements and we will teach Israel a lesson that will threaten its existence if it ever thinks of waging a war against our nation,” Raad said.

About 1,200 Lebanese, most of them civilians, lost their lives during Israel’s 33-day war on Lebanon back in the summer of 2006.

According to a 629-page report of the Winograd Commission, appointed by the occupying regime of Israel itself, Hezbollah fighters defeated the enemy, and Tel Aviv was compelled to withdraw without having achieved any of its objectives.

The Winograd Commission was set by former Zionist PM Ehud Olmert in September 2006 to examine the events during Israel’s 33-day war on Lebanon. It was chaired by retired judge Eliyahu Winograd.

The commission was formed in the wake of public criticism and protest over the fact that the Zionist military had effectively lost the war by failing to achieve its aim of freeing two soldiers captured by Hezbollah fighters.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which brokered a ceasefire in the 2006 war, calls on the occupying regime of Israel to respect Lebanon’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.