

Jordan Summons Zionist Envoy Over Minister's Remarks on Haram al-Sharif

AMMAN (Dispatches) – Jordan has condemned remarks made by the Zionist regime's Public security minister Gilad Erdan calling for a change to the status quo on the Temple Mount, known to Muslims as the Haram al-Sharif, in al-Quds.

The Zionist regime's envoy to Jordan has been summoned after the regime's minister suggested changing al-Quds's status quo to allow Jews pray at the Temple Mount, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday, according to AFP.

In a Tuesday interview with Israel's Radio 90, Erdan voiced support for changing the existing arrangements at the holy site.

"I think there is in an injustice in the status quo that has existed since '67. "We need to work to change it so in the future Jews, with the help of God, can pray at the Temple Mount. This needs to be achieved by diplomatic agreements and not by force", he clarified.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry quickly reacted the same day, by emphasizing that the kingdom "absolutely rejected" Erdan's remarks, and dismissed "any attempt to prejudice the historical and legal



Muslim worshippers perform the Eid al-Adha morning prayers at the Temple Mount in the Old City of al-Quds on August 11, 2019.

status quo and the serious consequences thereof".

Under the 1994 peace treaty between the

two countries, the Zionist regime recognizes Jordan as the custodian of the Temple Mount and al-Quds holy sites.

Citing Violation of Judicial Impartiality

Turkish Lawyers Boycott Presidential Palace Ceremony

ISTANBUL (Xinhua) – Dozens of bar associations across Turkey are for the first time boycotting an upcoming ceremony at the presidential palace to open the new judicial year, arguing it would violate the principle of judicial impartiality.

At least 42 provincial bar associations have recently announced that they would not attend the convention at the presidential palace in Ankara slated for Sept. 2.

The boycott was initiated by the Izmir Bar Association on Thursday, as the Supreme Court of Appeals was

sending invitations to bar associations in 79 provinces.

Having the ceremony at a venue that belongs to the head of the executive branch would be against the principle of separation of powers and damage the impartiality of the justice system, the Izmir bar association said in a written statement.

"We are not in this game," the statement added, calling on others to join the boycott.

The move of having the ceremony at the presidential palace has sparked a severe judicial crisis in the

country in terms of separation of powers, said Mehmet Durakoglu, chairman of the Istanbul Bar Association.

"We are seeking justice, aiming at re-establishing the rule of law in the country," he told Xinhua, arguing a presidential palace ceremony would open the door toward the "union of powers."

In his view, more provincial bar associations would join the boycott in the coming days.

The Union of Turkish Bar Associations, meanwhile, announced that its board of directors has decided to join

the ceremony and its president Metin Feyzioğlu will make an opening speech.

"We are fully confident that we can solve problems together by talking and communicating with each other," the union said in a written statement posted on its website.

The ceremony was first held at the Turkish presidential palace in 2016 following a failed coup in July the same year. In 2017, the venue was changed to another location in response to objections, but it returned to the palace in 2018.

Car Bomb Goes Off in Syria's Qamishli

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – A car bomb exploded in Syria's northeastern city of Qamishli on Sunday, state TV reported.

The car exploded near a high school in the Arbawiyeh neighborhood in the city amid reports of damage, said the report, spelling no further details.

Meanwhile, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the explosion left human losses as well.

Reports indicate that the city, which is largely controlled by the Kurdish militia in Hasakah Province, is in a state of lawlessness.

It's not the first explosion that targets the city.

Last month, several people were wounded by three explosions that rocked the city.

Daesh, which has lost key areas to the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in eastern Syria, has claimed responsibility for several explosions targeting the Kurdish-controlled areas.

The Syrian government repeatedly slammed the Kurdish control over areas in northeastern Syria, vowing to retake all areas controlled by the U.S.-backed Kurdish forces either by force or negotiations.

Pro-government and opposition activists recently reported eruption of protests against Kurdish forces in eastern Syria as the living conditions are tough there.

The Kurdish forces are seeking to create an autonomous region in predominantly Kurdish areas in northeastern Syria, which has been rejected by the government.

Tlaib's Grandmother Says 'May God Ruin Trump'

BEIT UR AL-FAUQA, West Bank (Dispatches) – Sitting under an olive tree in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Muftia Tlaib scoffs at the attention she has recently received from the president of the United States.

"May God ruin him," she says.

Tlaib is the grandmother of U.S. congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, at the center of an affair that has drawn Donald Trump and Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu together against U.S. Democrats.

On Thursday, bowing to pressure from Trump, the regime barred a visit by Rashida Tlaib and fellow Democrat Ilhan Omar that it had initially said it would allow.

The next day, the Zionist regime said it would let Tlaib visit her family in the West Bank on humanitarian grounds - but Tlaib rejected the offer, saying that the regime had imposed restrictions meant to humiliate her.

On Friday night, Trump tweeted: "Rep. Tlaib wrote a letter to Israeli officials desperately wanting to visit her grandmother. Permission was quickly granted, whereupon Tlaib obnoxiously turned the approval down, a complete setup. The only real winner here is Tlaib's grandmother. She doesn't have to see her now!"

Ninety-year-old Muftia Tlaib, sitting in her garden in the village of Beit Ur Al-Fauqa, was not impressed. "Trump tells me I should be happy Rashida is not coming," she said. "May God ruin him."

Her son, Rashida's uncle Bassam Tlaib, said the women had not seen each other since 2006: "She was going to slaughter a sheep when Rashida arrived and prepare her favorite food, stuffed vine leaves.

"Rashida sees her granny as a second mother, she has always supported her. Rashida

says she owes her success to her grandmother."

Tlaib did not outline what the conditions imposed on her visit were. Israeli media reported that she had agreed not to promote boycotts against the Zionist regime as part of her request to the regime's foreign ministry.

Tlaib, like Omar, has voiced support for the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, which opposes the occupation and the regime's policies toward Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. BDS backers can be denied entry to the occupied territories by law.

The pair are the first two Muslim women to be elected to Congress, and Detroit-born Tlaib is the first Palestinian-American congresswoman. Both are members of the Democratic party's progressive wing and sharp critics of Trump and the Zionist regime.

Daesh...

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civilians "can only be described as a cowardly act of terror," UN envoy to Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi vehemently denounced the "inhumane" attack, saying the perpetrators of the heinous act are the "enemies of humanity, peace, security and stability in Afghanistan."

Expressing sympathy and solidarity with the Afghan government and nation as well as the victims of the bomb blast, Mousavi said the country was passing through a tough and fateful era strewn with hardships and deterrents.

The spokesman underscored that Afghanistan would be capable of overcoming such difficulties through a concerted effort and unity between the Afghan government, nation and people from various factions.

The explosion came just ahead of Afghanistan's 100th Independence Day on Monday. The city, long familiar with checkpoints and razor wire, has been under heavier security. A planned event in Kabul marking the anniversary was postponed because of the attack, the president's office said.

The attack also comes at a greatly uncertain time in Afghanistan as the U.S. and the Taliban appear to be within days of a deal after several rounds of talks this year. Afghanistan's government has been sidelined in those talks as the Taliban refuse to negotiate with what it calls a U.S. puppet.

Many Afghans fear that terror attacks inside the country will continue, and their pleas for peace — and for details on the talks — have increased in recent days.

Frustration at the authorities was evident as well, amid a fresh wave of grief.

"We want the government to stop arguing about power and act like a human being to bring peace to this country," one worker at the wedding hall, Hajji Reza, said. Several of his colleagues remained missing.

Gibraltar...

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"The vessel is ongoing some logistical changes and requirements that have delayed the departure," Richard De la Rosa, managing director of Astralship, told the Associated Press.

In an another desperate bid, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday warned mariners against signing on to ships linked to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps or others under U.S. sanctions.

"The maritime community should be aware that the U.S. government intends to revoke visas held by members of such crews," Pompeo said.

The weeks-long diplomatic dispute between Tehran and Washington comes amid a stand-off between the two countries after President Donald Trump withdrew from an international nuclear accord with Tehran and reimposed sanctions. Tensions in the Persian Gulf have been on the rise since. Some European leaders have been unwilling to follow the U.S. lead in attempting to isolate the Persian nation.

Iran's ambassador to Britain said on Sunday the tanker is expected to leave Gibraltar on Sunday night.

"The vessel is expected to leave tonight," envoy Hamid Baedinejad said on Twitter, adding that two engineering teams had been flown to Gibraltar.

Washington had attempted to detain the Grace 1 on the grounds

that it had links to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), which it has designated a terrorist organization.

The Gibraltar government noted that the IRGC is not blacklisted in Gibraltar, the UK or in most of the EU generally, unlike in the U.S.

Tehran said it was ready to dispatch its naval fleet to escort the tanker - now renamed the 'Adrian Darya-1' - if required.

"The era of hit and run is over ... if top authorities ask the navy, we are ready to escort out tanker Adrian," Iran's navy commander, Rear Admiral Hussein Khanzadi was quoted as saying by Mehr news agency.

On Sunday, video footage and photographs showed the tanker flying the red, green and white flag of Iran and bearing its new name, painted in white, on the hull. Its previous name, 'Grace 1', had been painted over. The vessel's anchor was still down.

The initial impounding of the Grace 1 sparked a diplomatic row that escalated when Tehran seized a British-flagged oil tanker in the Persian Gulf two weeks later. That tanker, the Stena Impero, is still detained.

Iran has denounced U.S. efforts to set up a coalition in the Persian Gulf and insisted regional countries could protect the strategic waterway and work toward signing a non-aggression pact.

Over...

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prevented from freely practicing our religious rituals."

Since February 2011, Bahraini people have been regularly holding peaceful protest rallies, demanding that the Al Khalifa family relinquish power and let a just system representing all Bahrainis be established.

They have also been complaining against widespread discrimination against the country's Shia majority.

Manama has responded to the demonstrations heavy-handedly. The authorities have detained rights campaigners, broken up major opposition parties, revoked the nationality of several pro-democracy activists, and deported those made stateless.

AP...

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In July, Iran's Information and Communications Technology Minister Muhammad Javad Azari Jahromi told The Associated Press that Tehran planned three more launches this year, two for satellites that do remote-sensing work and another that handles communications.

The Nahid-1 is reportedly the telecommunication satellite, which authorities plan to have in orbit for two-and-a-half months. Nahid in Farsi means "Venus."

The Mehr news agency quoted Jahromi on Aug. 13 as saying that the Nahid-1 was ready to be delivered to Iran's Defense Ministry, signaling a launch date for the satellite was likely imminent. Iran's National Week of Government, during which Tehran often inaugurates new projects, begins Aug. 24.

The launch of the Nahid-1 comes after two attempts at getting satellites into orbit in January and February. A separate fire at the Imam Khomeini Space Center in February also killed three researchers, authorities said at the time.

Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space.