DAMASCUS (Dispatches) — About 1.3 million of internally displaced persons and 600,000 international refugees have returned to their homes in Syria since September 2015, the head of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Sides in Syria, Alexey Bakin, says. He stated that efforts aimed at non-military solution of the domestic Syrian conflict and at helping Syrians to return to peaceful life continue in the country, TASS reported. At the same time, terrorist groups continue to violate the ceasefire.



Thought for Today

About atonement of sin He says Allah accepts the repentance of those who have ignorantly committed vice and then soon repent for it, Allah accepts such repentance's, He is Wise and Omniscient.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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## Palestinian Resistance Groups Warn Zionist Regime After Gaza Strikes

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Hamas and Islamic Jihad, two Palestinian resistance movements based in the Gaza Strip, have issued stern warnings to the Zionist regime following strikes that killed three Gazans.

The Zionist regime's military said helicopter gunship and tank fire had killed three "armed suspects" along the fence separating the coastal sliver from occupied Palestinian lands. Ma'an news agency said at least one other Palestinian had suffered critical injuries in the overnight attack.

Hamas spokesman Abdul-Latif al-Qanu reacted on Sunday, saying the pressure that the Palestinian nation was being subjected to threatened to cause "its rage against the occupiers to explode."

Such eruption could only be prevented if Tel Aviv ended its atrocities, acts of terrorism, and siege targeting the Palestinians, Qanu said.

He said the international community's silence and inaction in the face of the regime ran counter to



The relatives of 26-year-old Palestinian Mohammed Samir al-Taramsi, one of three Palestinians killed overnight by Israeli fire along Gaza's fence, carry his body at the morgue of a hospital in Beit Lahya, in northern Gaza Strip, on August 18, 2019.

international law and humanitarian principles and encouraged Tel Aviv to perpetrate more such crimes.

Islamic Jihad, meanwhile, released a statement saying that the occupying regime's "brutal treatment of our nation" manifested itself in the recent killings.

It described Zionist crimes as "a declaration of war against our people."

Helicopters and jets operated by the Zionist regime launched fresh attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip, less than a day after warplanes targeted facilities allegedly belonging to the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

Media reports said the rocket attacks had caused panic among Israeli settlers and Zionist troops. There was no statement from Hamas on the rocket attacks and Israeli bombardment.

Later reports in the Israeli media showed that regime forces had shot and killed five Palestinians who were allegedly attempting to cross the border from Gaza into the occupied territories.

The reports said the five were members of the military wing of Palestinian movement the Islamic Jihad who were crossing the border from Gaza's Beit Hanoun region.

The escalation of the conflict in Gaza comes amid renewed tensions in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinians have been protesting against the continued Israeli aggressions.

Hamas officials said early on Saturday that Israel's attacks on Gaza were meant to divert attentions from regime's embarrassment in the West Bank.

Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, said it would not allow the Israeli regime to use the enclave as a ground to settle its accounts.

### Clashes Between Rival Factions Kill 30 in Yemen's Taiz



This AFPTV screen grab from a video made on August 1, 2019, shows Saudi-backed militants loyal to the ex-regime carrying a body at the scene of a missile attack on a military camp west of Aden.

ADEN (Dispatches) – as At least 30 people were killed during armed confrontations raging for the fourth consecutive day between rival proformer regime military and security factions in Yemen's southwestern province of Taiz, a security official told Xinhua Sunday.

The security source based in Taiz said on condition of anonymity that "four days of intense clashes raging between security forces and army units linked to the Saudibacked Yemeni government resulted in killing 30 people.

He said that the armed confrontations are still taking place between the rival forces in Albereen area to the southern side of Taiz.

A medical source confirmed the casualty figures saying that the dead people included "three displaced civilians, 13 soldiers from the 35th armored army brigade and about 14 security personnel."

According to the medical source, dozens of other were wounded during the ongoing clashes, including civilians

An official of Taiz local authority

clarified that "the clashes began on Thursday after sacking a security official from his post in the area and appointing a new one opposing the army forces."

The impoverished Arab country has been locked into a Saudi-led war since 2015.

The U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the Saudi-led war has claimed the lives of over 60,000 Yemenis since January 2016.

The war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The UN says over 24 million Yemenis are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including 10 million suffering from extreme levels of hunger.

An international law group has submitted a new report to the British government providing evidence that the Saudi-led coalition has been covering up its unlawful airstrikes on civilian targets and its war crimes in the war on Yemen.

#### Syrian Army Cuts Terrorists' Supply Road to Idlib

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian Army continues its military operations around Khan Shaykhoun in southern Idlib and has cut off the most important route used by the terrorists from Ma'aret al-Numan to Khan Sheikhoun.

The Syrian Army troops, meantime, continued their clashes with Tahrir al-Sham terrorists to the northwest of Khan Shaykhoun, took control of the town of Tal Kafar Eidoun just three kilometers to the west of the International Aleppo-Damascus Highway.

The Syrian Army troops, meanwhile, continued their advances from Tal al-Nar to the east of Tal Alas and captured Mohammad Qassem al-Najm Farms and Sifu to the East of Kafar Nab.

A military source pointed to the Syrian Army troops' efforts to lay full siege to Khan Shaykhoun, and said that by imposing control over the Aleppo-Damascus Highway, the Syrian Army has managed to cut off the main road linking Khan Shaykhoun to Ma'aret al-Numan that hosts the largest bastion of the terrorists in Idlib province.

The English-language al-Masdar reported that the Syrian Army is now just one kilometers away from Khan Shaykhoun.

In a relevant development earlier on Sunday, the Syrian Army continued its military operations in southern Idlib, and further tightened its grip over the terrorists after capturing strategic areas around Khan Shaykhoun.

The Syrian Army units backed by artillery units engaged in fierce clashes with Tahrir al-Sham in northwestern Khan Shaykhoun in southern Idlib and managed to take control of Khan Shaykhoun Farms and the strategic hilltop Elnar near Khan Shaykhoun City.

The Arabic-language website of the Russian Sputnik news agency, meantime reported that the Syrian Air Forces in consecutive attacks hit the terrorists' military positions in Khan Shaykhoun, Rakaya, Kafar Sajneh and Sheikh Mustafa in Southern Idlib, destroying a number of their centers and mil-

itary vehicles as well as movements.

A military source, meantime, pointed to the killing of tens of terrorists in the Syrian Army's military operations, and said that the government forces have taken full control of Khan Shaykhoun's Western to Northern farms.

It also reiterated that the Syrian Army captured the strategic al-Nar hilltop and paralyzed terrorists in military terms in the city of al-Rakaya and took full control of the Western part of Kafar Sajneh city.

The terrorist groups are losing their militants in Syrian Army's continued advances near Khan Shaykhoun and sustaining heavy defeats.

# U.S. Military Forced to Comply With Orders to Halt Flights Over Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The U.S. military has been forced to comply with Iraqi demands to halt flying planes, helicopters and drones over the country after its prime minister warned that violating aircraft would be targeted by Iraq's air defense systems.

Senior U.S. military commanders in Iraq met the nation's defense minister this week to discuss a recent demand from Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi to cease all military flights over the country's airspace following an unexplained explosion at Camp al-Saqr just outside the capital of Baghdad, Military.com reported.

"The U.S.-led coalition immediately complied with all directions received from our Iraqi partners as they implemented the Prime Minister's order," said a statement issued by American military's Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve that continues to operate in Iraq with the purported objective of conducting aerial strikes against already defeated Daesh terrorists in the war-torn country.

The decision by US military officials to abide by Abdul-Mahdi's directive -- as "guests within Iraq's sovereign borders" -- came after he reportedly urged "Iraqi and non-Iraqi parties" to comply with the demand or risk being considered "an enemy flight."

According to the report, the Iraqi premier further cautioned that unauthorized flight activity would be "dealt with from our air defenses immediately."

However, U.S. commanders did not indicate for how long they had agreed to keep American aircraft out of the Iraqi skies.

This is while the investigation surrounding the blast at Camp Al-Saqr remains ongoing but expected to be completed within a week. It comes amid press reports that the Zoionist regime is the main suspect for launching an air strike against the base, which hosted a weapons depot for Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) – credited with playing a key role in defeating the Daesh terrorists across the country.

Moreover, a PMF commander identified as Abu Alaa al-Walae described Abdul-Mahdi's "decision to ban American drones in Iraqi airspace" as brave in a Twitter message cited in an AP report.

The report further cited an unnamed PMF official as saying that there is evidence of a drone attack causing the recent blast.

#### 'Trump to Recognize Zionist Regime's Sovereignty Over West Bank'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) — After Donald Trump recognized al-Quds and the Golan Heights, reports have started to emerge that the U.S. president could give yet another "gift" to Prime Minister Netanyahu by acknowledging the occupying regime's rights to the West Bank.

On 12 August, the Times of Israel reported, citing the Zionist regime's Prime Minister's Office officials, that Benjamin Netanyahu was lobbying President Donald Trump to recognize the regime's sovereignty over the West Bank ahead of the September snap elections to secure his Likud Party's victory.

Nevertheless, the assumption does not appear to be completely contrived. On 6 December 2017, President Donald Trump announced the U.S. recognition of al-Quds as the regime's "capital" and transferal of the U.S. Embassy to the city, something that American presidents have shied away from doing for 22 years, since the adoption of the al-Quds Embassy Act of 1995. Trump's announcement came six days before the Jewish

holiday of Hanukkah.

While Netanyahu's April win was largely associated with the recognition of Golan Heights, the question arises as to whether Trump will make yet another election gift to the Zionist prime minister in September.

Israeli political analyst and publicist Avigdor Eskin deems that the recent reports are "more than just rumors", citing U.S. Ambassador to the occupied territories David Friedman who stated in a June interview with The New York Times that certain parts of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) could be brought under the regime's jurisdiction.

"These territories had never belonged to Palestinians, but were under Turkish, later British, the Jordanian and now Israeli military rule with certain autonomous status for the Palestinians led by Mahmud Abbas", the Israeli publicist claims.

The West Bank, a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, has repeatedly changed hands during the past century. After

being detached from the Ottoman Empire, the region was allocated to the British Mandate of Palestine between 1920 and 1947 and then seized by Jordan in the aftermath of the 1948 Arab–Israeli War. In 1967 it was captured by the Zionist regime during the Six-Day War and has remained since then a military-occupied territory by the UN's account.

"One of the solutions considers the possibility of giving back Palestinians on the West Bank their original Jordanian citizenship, as it had been until late 1980s with certain autonomy while the Israeli law will be extended on the territories controlled by the Jewish settlements", Eskin suggests.

According to the publicist, this scenario had been "discussed publicly and in the private talks between the Israeli and the U.S. officials".

However, Eskin observes that it is unlikely that the regime's claim to the West Bank will be recognized by the U.S. before the general elections in the occupied territories, scheduled for 17 September 17 September 18 September 19 September