

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has fired all of his advisors amid a financial crisis in the occupied West Bank that has led to deep salary cuts. Palestinian news agency Wafa, citing a statement by the Palestinian Authority president's office, announced the news, saying he sacked all of his advisors regardless of their title or ranking. President Abbas "also decided to abolish the decisions and contracts related to them, and to suspend the rights and privileges they received in their capacity as advisors," the statement added, without providing more details on the number of his advisors, who have been relieved of their duties, or the costs involved.

About being thankful He says if you are thankful for what you are given, I shall increase My Bounties and Blessings.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hamas Downplays Zionist PM's War Threats



In this file picture, fighters from al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas resistance movement, take part in a parade in Gaza City.

GAZA (Dispatches) – Hamas has downplayed the threat of Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to launch a large-scale offensive on the Gaza Strip as "useless."

Netanyahu's threat to wage a war against Gaza "is empty of its content and

comes in the frame of his election campaign," said Abdulatif al-Qanoua, Hamas spokesman in Gaza, said in a press statement.

"Netanyahu will certainly lose any new war that will be waged against Gaza, similar to the previous ones," al-Qanoua

warned.

Our "armed resistance now is bigger than before and is able to foil any new plans," he added.

On Sunday, Netanyahu threatened a large-scale Israeli military operation in the Gaza Strip against the Hamas-led re-

sistance groups.

Earlier in the day, the Lebanese Al-Akbar newspaper quoted a well-informed Hamas source as saying the movement had sent the last warning to the Zionist regime about its commitment to implement the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire deal.

"If the occupier (the Zionist regime) doesn't allow the transfer of the Qatari funds and doesn't increase electricity until the end of this week, the situation will go toward escalation in the Gaza Strip," the source told the Lebanese paper.

Meanwhile, five Palestinians were injured by Zionist troops escorting hundreds of settlers into a shrine in the occupied West Bank.

Ma'an news agency quoted local sources as saying that clashes erupted between local Palestinians and Zionist troops after hundreds of Zionist settlers attempted to enter the compound of Joseph's Tomb (Qabr Yusuf), east of Nablus, under Israeli army protection in the early hours of Tuesday.

According to the report, the Zionist troops fired rubber bullets, tear gas canisters, and sound bombs at the Palestinians.

Joseph's Tomb is situated in the West Bank's so-called Area A, which is controlled by the Palestinian Authority; however, the Israeli military allows the settlers to visit the site without approval.

This is while the regime prevents Muslims from worshipping there.

U.S. Congresswomen: Go to Occupied Territories, See Cruel Reality of Occupation



A file photo of U.S. Muslim congresswomen Rashida Tlaib (L) and Ilhan Omar

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Democratic U.S. Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib have sharply criticized the Zionist regime for denying them entry to the occupied territories and called on fellow members of Congress to visit while they cannot.

Omar, of Minnesota, suggested President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were suppressing the congresswomen's ability to carry out their oversight role, Al Jazeera reported. "I would encourage my colleagues to visit, meet with the people we were going to meet with, see the things we were going to see, hear the stories we were going to hear," Omar said at a news conference, adding, "We cannot let Trump and Netanyahu succeed in hiding the cruel reality of the occupation from us."

At Trump's urging, the Zionist regime denied entry to Congress's first two Muslim women over their support for the Palestinian-led boycott movement.

Tlaib and Omar, who had planned to visit al-Quds and the Israeli-occupied West Bank on a tour organized by a Palestinian group, are outspoken critics of the Zionist regime's treatment of the Palestinians.

Tlaib, of Michigan, and Omar were joined by Minnesota residents who said they had been directly affected by travel restrictions in the

past. They included Lana Barkawi, a Palestinian American who's executive and artistic director of Mizna, a cultural group that sponsors the annual Twin Cities Arab Film Festival.

The U.S. government denied visas to several actors and directors who had been invited to participate last year.

White House Spokesman Hogan Gidley kept up the administration's criticism of the two politicians.

Before the regime's decision, Trump tweeted it would be a "show of weakness" to allow the two representatives in. the Zionist regime controls entry and exit to the occupied West Bank.

Trump's request to a foreign country to bar the entry of elected U.S. officials - and the regime's decision to do so - were unprecedented and drew widespread criticism, including from many Israelis as well as staunch supporters of Israel in Congress. Critics noted that Netanyahu's decision was a reckless gamble.

Tlaib and Omar support "boycott, divestment and sanctions", or BDS, a Palestinian-led global movement. Supporters say the movement is a nonviolent way of protesting the Zionist regime's military rule over the occupied territories, but the occupying regime says it aims to delegitimize the "state" and eventually wipe it off the map.

Turkish Police Use Water Cannon, Batons on Kurdish Protesters

DIYARBAKIR (Dispatches) – Riot police fired water cannon and tear gas to disperse protesters demonstrating in southeast Turkey on Tuesday against the ousting of three Kurdish mayors five months after they were elected.

Ankara replaced the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) mayors with state officials on Monday and detained more than 400 people for suspected militant links in a step sharply criticized by opposition parties.

In Diyarbakir, the region's biggest city, police repeatedly used water cannon on small groups of protesters, who huddled on the streets to protect themselves from the water cannon and made victory signs with their hands.

Riot police struck protesters with batons as they fled the area. The protesters gathered near

city hall, which was sealed off by metal barriers after a state administrator took office there on Monday in place of the elected mayor.

"You can see here today a regime of pressure and persecution," HDP leader Sezai Temelli told reporters in a statement on the street in Diyarbakir as the police acted against the protesters.

"We will continue to resist wherever we are because resistance is our legitimate right," he said.

The Interior Ministry announced in a statement on Monday that Adnan Selcuk Mizrakli, Ahmet Turk and Bedia Ozgokce Ertan -- respectively the mayors of the southeastern provinces of Diyarbakir and Mardin as well as the eastern Van province -- had been suspended.

It added that the mayors -- all

members of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) which Turkey's government has accused of having links to the PKK terror group -- had active cases against them in which they were accused of crimes such as establishing or spreading propaganda for the militant group, or just being a member.

The charges included attending funerals and visiting graves of "terrorists", renaming streets and parks after imprisoned PKK members, and offering jobs to the Kurdish militants' relatives.

The interior ministry said the mayors' roles would be taken over by their provincial governors, who are appointed by the central government.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly claimed the HDP has ties to the PKK.

The HDP denies any affiliation to the Kurdish militant group, but has tried to broker peace talks between the militants and Ankara government.

"This is a new and clear political coup. It is a clear and hostile stance against the political will of the Kurdish people," the HDP executive board said in a written statement.

Noting that the three mayors had been elected with between 53 percent and 63 percent of the vote in their cities in March, the statement called for support from other political parties.

Veli Agbaba, deputy chairman of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), wrote on Twitter that the dismissals were tantamount to fascism and a blow to democracy.

The new Istanbul mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, also slammed the move.

Clashes Hit Yemen's South, Saudi-Led Forces Strike Capital

ADEN (Dispatches) – Southern separatists in Yemen have seized two military bases near the southern port of Aden, triggering fresh clashes between nominal allies that have complicated UN peace efforts, residents and officials said.

The separatists and the former regime are both part of a Saudi-led military coalition.

Forces belonging to pro-secession Southern Transitional Council (STC) on Tuesday seized the military base in the southern province of Abyan, a security official told Xinhua.

"The STC forces launched an intensive attack using heavy weapons after besieging the military base located in Al Kud area in Abyan's southern part," the security source said on condition of anonymity.

"The STC troops stormed the former regime's military base from several directions and managed to seize it completely after brief clashes," he added.

The ongoing clashes have killed about five people from both sides and injured several others, the source noted.

Earlier in the day, large-scale clashes broke out between the STC military units and former regime forces over the control of Zinjibar, Abyan's capital city.

Key social figures, who are trying to mediate, suggested the handover of the military bases to the STC peacefully to avoid armed confrontations and violence, according to local sources.

The STC forces completely seized the strategic southern port city of Aden last week following days of intense street fighting with the government forces.

On another front in the north, the Saudi-led coalition said it launched air strikes overnight on Houthi military targets in Sanaa. The coalition claimed on Tuesday that its air strikes on Sanaa struck caves storing missiles, drones and weapons.

The violence and cracks in the coalition could hamper United Nations efforts to push forward peace agreements and talks to end a war that has killed tens of thousands and driven the poorest Arabian Peninsula country to the brink of famine.

'U.S. Planes Carry Aid to Daesh Base in Iraq's Salahuddin'

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The U.S. planes have carried foodstuff and logistical aid to the Daesh terrorist group's most important base in Iraq's Salahuddin province, Iraqi sources said.

The Arabic-language al-Ma'aloumeh news website quoted head of al-Sharqat City Council Salih al-Sha'alan as saying that the U.S. planes have landed in regions near al-Makhoul mountain, which is one of the most important Daesh bases in Iraq.

He added that eyewitnesses have repeatedly reported that the U.S. planes have landed in the region, noting that they supply foodstuff and other logistical aid to the terrorists.

Iraqi sources have repeatedly reported the U.S. aircraft attempts to send military shipments to the Daesh in Sala-

huddin, Falluja, Mosul, and Diali and relocate the Daesh commanders to safe regions.

The director of the Badr Organization's office in al-Anbar province said in May that the U.S. Army troops had sent aid shipments for the Daesh terrorists in Western al-Anbar.

The U.S. troops sent foodstuff and medicine for the Daesh terrorists in al-Anbar's Western Sahara, al-Ma'aloumeh news website quoted Qusai al-Anbari as saying.

He pointed to the vast area and difficult terrain of al-Anbar province, and said the only way of access to the areas where the ISIL terrorists are stationed goes through air and the U.S. military choppers are the only aircraft flying to the region and supplying the Daesh terrorists with aid consignment.