

**RAMALLAH (Dispatches)** – Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas says the United States did not respect the international law when it moved its embassy in the occupied territories to al-Quds. Abbas said in a speech in Ramallah that “we always expect the U.S. ... to respect the international law,” the official Palestinian news agency WAEA reported. “But we discovered that it (the U.S.) has its own laws and legislations, and therefore, it believes that when it orders, the orders will be respected, and then it moved its embassy to al-Quds,” he added.

*Blessings are for the man who controls his tongue from vicious and useless talk, who abstains from oppression, who faithfully follows the traditions of the Holy Prophet and who keeps himself away from innovation in religion.*

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Palestinian Fighters Down Zionist Regime's Drone in Gaza



*Zionist troops look at a drone prepared to throw gas canisters during clashes with Palestinian protesters in Ramallah, near the settlement of Beit El, in the occupied West Bank on December 14, 2018.*

**GAZA STRIP (Dispatches)** – The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has shot down a drone that belonged to the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip, a day after the regime carried out a fresh wave of air raids against the besieged coastal enclave.

Palestinians media reported that Hamas resistance fighters intercepted and downed the quadcopter drone east of Rafah in southern Gaza Strip on Monday night.

The Zionist regime's military confirmed that a drone fell in southern Gaza Strip, saying that an investiga-

tion into the incident is underway.

The aircraft's remains are now in the hands of the resistance fighters, according to the media reports.

The unmanned aerial vehicle is the second aircraft the Israeli army has lost over the past 24 hours.

The Lebanese resistance move-

ment Hezbollah said its air defense forces shot down an Israeli military drone outside the southern town of Ramyah early Monday, amid heightened tensions between the group and the regime's military.

The downing of the drone in Rafah area comes amid a series of exchanges between the occupying regime and Gaza.

Palestinian news agencies said late on Saturday that Israeli airstrikes targeted positions allegedly held by Hamas inside the enclave. Health officials said there were no casualties from the attacks that lasted close to an hour.

Zionist regime sources said the attacks hit Hamas naval facilities on the Mediterranean and two military compounds run by the group in central Gaza. There was no confirmation from Hamas and its affiliated groups.

The relentless bombardment by the regime came after Hamas launched a drone operation targeting Israeli military equipment stationed along the border with the occupied Palestinian territories following a wave of aerial assaults by the regime.

Hamas' raids have come in response to the regime's killing of Palestinian protesters marching along the fence separating Gaza from the Israeli-occupied territories.

## Gasping, Bone Saw in Last Moments Audio Transcripts of Khashoggi's Murder Revealed



*In this photo taken on October 25, 2018, a member of the Sri Lankan web journalist association holds a poster with the image of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi during a demonstration outside the Saudi Embassy in Colombo.*

**ISTANBUL (Press TV)** – A Turkish daily has released what it says are detailed transcripts of audio recordings from inside Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on the day when Saudi government agents killed and dismembered the body of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The Turkish Daily Sabah newspaper released the transcripts of the alleged conversations between Khashoggi and the 15-man hit squad that had been sent on a mission to kill him before and during the assassination.

The original audio file was obtained by Turkey's national intelligence, according to the daily.

Khashoggi, a former advocate of the Saudi royal court who later became a critic of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018 after he entered the perimeter to collect documents for his planned wedding. He had been falsely promised the documents.

The Washington Post, for which Khashoggi was a columnist, reported in November last year that the CIA had concluded that Mohammed personally ordered his killing.

According to the scripts, Khashoggi meets a familiar face when he enters the consulate and is later pulled by the arm into a room, where he grows suspicious.

“Please sit. We have to take you back [to Riyadh],” Maher Abdu-

laziz Mutreb, a Saudi intelligence officer and the bodyguard of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, tells Khashoggi after he enters the room, adding, “There is an order from Interpol. Interpol demanded you be returned. We are here to take you.”

The Saudi journalist responds, “There are no lawsuits against me. My fiancée is waiting outside for me.”

According to the recordings, Mutreb later asks Khashoggi to “leave a message for your son.”

When Khashoggi declines to write such a message, Mutreb says, “Write it, Mister Jamal. Hurry up. Help us so we can help you, because in the end we will take you back to Saudi Arabia and if you don't help us, you know what will happen eventually.”

Khashoggi is then drugged using a towel. He asks them not to block his mouth. A plastic bag was also pulled on his head.

“I have asthma. Do not do it, you will suffocate me,” Khashoggi says before losing consciousness and suffocating.

Just before his death, sounds of scuffling and gasping for breath dominate the recordings.

Sounds of a bone saw and the dismemberment of Khashoggi's body are then heard at 1.39 pm local time, just 25 minutes after he enters the consulate, the report said.

The brutal procedure reportedly took 30 minutes.

## Turkey Says U.S. Stalling on Syria 'Safe Zone'

**ANKARA (Dispatches)** – Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Tuesday that Washington is stalling in its agreement to create a “safe zone” in northeast Syria, and repeated that Ankara was ready to act on its own if necessary to push back Kurdish militants.

The NATO allies have agreed to establish what Ankara calls a safe zone along Turkey's southern border and clear the region of Syrian Kurdish YPG militants. On Sunday, Turkish and U.S. troops carried out their first joint military land patrol there.

Turkey, which labels the YPG a terrorist organization, wants the operations to expand rapidly as far as 20 miles (32 km) from its border to create a zone controlled by Turkish troops.

Cavusoglu said Turkey wanted to work with the United States but was growing impatient. “Yes, there are some joint patrols but other than that, the steps that have been taken or the steps that are said to be taken are cosmetic steps,” he told reporters.

“We are seeing that the United States is entering a stalling process...and that it is trying to get Turkey accustomed to this stalling process,” he said in Ankara, adding Washington's approach has so far served the YPG more than Turkey.

President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday Turkey cannot handle a new wave of migrants from northern Syria, adding that Ankara and Washington needed to establish the “safe zone” in the region as soon as possible.

## Dozens of Palestinians Disappear in Saudi Arabia

**RIYADH (Dispatches)** – Dozens of Palestinians have forcibly disappeared in Saudi Arabia and their fates remain unknown, according to testimonies by their families given to a Swiss-based rights group.

The Euro-Mediterranean for Human Rights Monitor, an independent, nonprofit rights organization, announced the information in a statement it was unable to give the exact number of the Palestinians who have forcibly disappeared in Saudi Arabia, but said it had the names of some 60 Palestinians who had met that fate.

The Palestinian community in Saudi Arabia believes that the real number of the abductees is far higher.

The Euro-Med stated that the

Palestinians in question — among whom are students, residents, businessmen, and academics — have been completely isolated from the outside world without any indictments against them.

They have not been brought before public prosecution, nor allowed to communicate with their relatives or lawyers, it added.

“The campaign in Saudi Arabia of arresting Palestinians is but one in a long series of human rights violations in the country,” Selin Yasar, Euro-Med's communication and media officer, noted.

The wife of one Palestinian engineer who had been working for a Saudi company but disappeared without a trace stated that she was completely in the dark about her

husband's fate.

“My biggest pain is not knowing anything about my husband. I do not know if he is alive, dead, healthy or tortured, and this made his disappearance more painful for my children, his parents, and his siblings,” she added.

His family and friends say Saudi authorities won't respond to queries about his fate.

“The Euro-Med considered the practices of the Saudi authorities a flagrant violation of the requirements of justice, which guaranteed everyone the right to a fair trial including knowing charges against them, the right to defense and access to a lawyer,” the statement read.

The rights group called on Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz to order executive authorities to immediately reveal the fate of the Palestinians who have disappeared.

It also urged the international community and the Arab kingdom's allies in the West to pressure Riyadh to end the forced disappearance of its nationals and foreigners and to put an end to the flagrant human rights violations in Saudi Arabia.

Over the past two years, Saudi authorities have deported more than 100 Palestinians from the kingdom, mostly on charges of supporting the Hamas resistance movement financially, politically, or through social networking sites.

### Next EU Chief:

## No Turkish Progress in EU Entry Bid

**BRUSSELS (Dispatches)** – Incoming European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Tuesday that Turkey had not made progress on key conditions to allow it to become a member of the European Union.

“As regards Turkey, I have not seen this progress in the last years. On the contrary ... Turkey needs to show that it wants to be closer to European values, to European rules, the rule of law, liberty and fundamental values,” she told a news conference, at which she announced her future team of commissioners.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on the European Union to demonstrate sincerity about his country's accession to the 28-member politico-economic bloc.

“It needs to be clear whether or not the EU will accept Turkey,” Erdogan said last year dur-

ing a joint press conference with Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban in Budapest.

“Turkey has been stalled since 1963. No EU member state has been treated in such a way,” he added.

Erdogan suggested that he could take Turkey to a referendum over its EU membership bid.

“If the European Union continues wasting Turkey's time in its accession to the union, then the country could hold a referendum over its membership bid. It is better to see this process faster so that Turkey can determine its way,” the Turkish president said at an international forum in Istanbul on October 4.

Ankara slammed the European Union as “hypocritical” and “prejudiced” after the bloc said Ankara was moving further away from Europe.

The EU has often criticized the crackdown and attacks on freedom of speech in the wake of the botched putsch, in which tens of thousands of people, including journalists, have been arrested.

Ankara, in return, has accused Brussels of being unsupportive of the multiple terror threats it faces.

Turkey has also rejected any offer of partnership with the EU that falls short of full membership, warning that the current situation gave Turkey no reason to maintain its refugee deal with the bloc.

The EU and Turkey struck a deal worth billions of euros in March 2016, under which Turkey would take back migrants in exchange for visa liberalization. It has yet to take effect for Turkish nationals.