

Zionist Troops Training U.S. Police on Large Scale: Amnesty

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Amnesty International has revealed how police forces from a surprisingly wide expanse of the United States have been receiving training from Zionist troops, warning that the violence being exercised by the American law enforcement has come to match the occupying regime's brutality.

The UK-based rights group said the American police members have been either traveling to the occupied territories to receive training or have been trained inside the United States by Zionist troops.

It said the Zionist regime's police, military, and spy agencies have been providing training to American troops on such issues as "crowd control, use of force, and surveillance."

It identified the recipients as "Baltimore law enforcement officials, along with hundreds of others from Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, California, Arizona, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Georgia, Washington state as well as the DC Capitol police."

Besides those traveling to the occupied territories, "thousands of others have received training from Israeli officials here in the U.S.," the Amnesty noted.

The training is either taxpayer funded or privately funded as in the case of the money that has been offered for the process since 2002 by the international far-right Zionist organization Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee's Project In-



Zionist troops restrain a Palestinian man as troops try to abduct him in the flashpoint city of al-Khalil, in the occupied West Bank, on September 20, 2016.

terchange that arranges for visits to the occupied territories by Americans, and Washington, D.C.-based think tank, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs of America, the rights body reported.

The training process, it regretted, puts members of the U.S. police "in the hands of [the Zionist regime's] military, security, and police systems that have racked up documented human rights violations for years."

The Amnesty cautioned that the U.S. police's abuses had now come to "parallel violations by Israeli military, security and police officials."

It cited some of the Zionist troops' atroci-

ties as extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings, the use of ill-treatment and torture even against children, suppression of freedom of expression and association, and excessive use of force against peaceful protesters.

The Amnesty finally advised that the U.S. police be instead trained on de-escalation techniques, how to handle mentally challenged or ill citizens, and how to appropriately respond to those using non-violent protest.

"The people of Baltimore deserve better. The American public deserves better," the body said.

Turkey's Restaurants, Cafes, Iconic Grand Bazaar Reopen

ISTANBUL (AFP) – Turkey reopened restaurants, cafes and Istanbul's iconic 15th century Grand Bazaar market on Monday as the government further eased coronavirus restrictions.

Many other facilities including parks, beaches, libraries and museums also reopened across the country, while millions of public sector employees returned to work.

Bars and nightclubs remained closed. Restaurants and cafes, reopening for the first time since March 16, must operate under strict rules.

Domestic flights also re-

sumed between a limited number of cities as an inter-city travel ban was lifted.

The national flag carrier Turkish Airlines said its first plane since the ban took off from Istanbul to the capital Ankara at 0700 GMT Monday.

International flights have been suspended until June 10.

Turkey, with a population of 83 million, has recorded more than 4,500 virus-related deaths.

The government has boasted of its success in handling the outbreak and avoiding becoming a virus hotspot such as Italy or the United

Kingdom.

Officials say the pandemic is now under control, but have repeatedly warned citizens to respect social distancing rules and wear masks outside.

The Grand Bazaar, an Istanbul landmark situated on the historic peninsula also home to tourist sites such as the Hagia Sophia museum and the Blue Mosque, shut down on March 23.

It has been the longest closure in the market's 559-year history that did not involve fires or earthquakes.

The bazaar reopened under strict rules laid out by the health ministry that include

the mandatory use of masks and a limit on the number of customers allowed into shops.

"You see some of the stores have premises with 15-square-metre (160-square-foot) areas and a maximum of two shoppers will be allowed inside," Fatih Kurtulmus, head of the Grand Bazaar's board, told AFP last month.

The bazaar -- which was built in 1455 just two years after the Ottomans seized Istanbul, then known as Constantinople -- is home to almost 3,000 shops where more than 30,000 people work.

Egypt Expats Stranded in Qatar Protest Outside Embassy

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Hundreds of Egyptian expatriates stranded in Qatar have protested outside their country's embassy in the capital, Doha, demanding to be returned home.

The protesters called on the Egyptian authorities not to involve them in political dif-

ferences and assist them in their efforts to return to Egypt.

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, hundreds of Egyptian expats lost their jobs in the Persian Gulf.

Earlier in April, Qatar said the Egyptian

authorities had rejected the repatriation of scores of Egyptians from Doha.

Relations between Cairo and Doha deteriorated after Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain severed their relations with Qatar in June 2017.

Emirates Could Take Four Years to Resume Flying to Entire Network

DUBAI (Reuters) – Emirates' outgoing President Tim Clark on Monday said it could take the state carrier up to four years to resume flying to its entire network that has been decimated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Dubai-based airline, which flew to 157 destinations in 83 countries before the pandemic, grounded passenger flights in March and has since operated few, limited services.

"I think probably by the year 2022/23, 2023/24 we will see things coming back to some degree of normality and Emirates will be operating its network as it was and hope-

fully as successfully as it was," Clark said in a webcast interview with aviation consultant John Strickland.

Emirates has warned that the current period would be the most difficult in its 35-year history and on Sunday said it had made some staff redundant due to the impact of the pandemic.

Clark, who is to become an adviser to the airline this month when he steps down as president, said the industry could start to recover by the summer next year if a widely available vaccine was successfully developed by early 2021.

"We will start to see an uptick, quite a large uptick in demand for travel," Clark said, adding that Emirates would be able to get its fleet ready within 48 hours if it had to.

Demand would likely continue to increase into 2023 and 2024 unless there was another major trauma to the global economy, he said. However, Clark warned that physical distancing on planes was not economically and environmentally practical because it would mean flying aircraft half empty.

Emirates will for now continue to ask passengers to wear gloves and face masks onboard, he said.

Protests...

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re-election in a Nov. 3 election, of further stoking conflict and racial tension rather than seeking to bring the country together and address the underlying issues.

"He's not helping ... He is not leading, he is causing further disruption," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms told CNN on Monday. "Unless he is going to speak unity and respect and reconciliation and reform for our communities, then I don't think that he should make a statement at all. It will only make matters worse."

Secret Service agents rushed Trump to a White House bunker on Friday night as hundreds of protesters gathered outside the executive mansion, some of them throwing rocks and tugging at police barricades.

Trump spent nearly an hour in the bunker, which was designed for use in emergencies like terrorist attacks, according to a Republican close to the White House who was not authorized to publicly discuss private matters and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The account was confirmed by an administration official who also spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The abrupt decision by the agents underscored the rattled mood inside the White House, where the chants from protesters in Lafayette Park could be heard all weekend and Secret Service agents and law enforcement officers struggled to contain the crowds.

Friday's protests have sparked one of the highest alerts on the White House complex since the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

The president and his family have been shaken by the size and venom of the crowds, according to the Republican.

Trump has told advisers he worries about his safety, while both privately and publicly praising the work of the Secret Service.

Nevertheless, he has continued his effort to project strength, using a series of inflammatory tweets and delivering partisan attacks during a time of national crisis.

As cities burned night after night and images of violence dominated television coverage, Trump's advisers discussed the prospect of an Oval Office address in an attempt to ease tensions. The notion was quickly scrapped for lack of policy proposals and the president's own seeming disinterest in delivering a message of unity.

'Overwhelming Force'

In recent days security at the White House has been reinforced by the National Guard and additional personnel from the Secret Service and the U.S. Park Police.

On Sunday, the Justice Department deployed members of the U.S. Marshals Service and agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration to supplement National Guard troops outside the White House, according to a senior Justice Department official. The official could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Thousands marched peacefully in Phoenix; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and other cities.

In downtown Atlanta, authorities fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of demonstrators. Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said two officers had been fired and three placed on desk duty after video showed police surrounding a car Saturday and using stun guns on the man and woman inside.

In Los Angeles, a police SUV accelerated into several protesters in a street, knocking two people to the ground. Nearby in Santa Monica, not far from a peaceful demonstration, groups broke into stores, walking out with boxes of shoes and folding chairs, among other items. A fire broke out at a restaurant across the street. Scores of people swarmed into stores in Long Beach. Some hauled armloads of clothing from a Forever 21 store away in garbage bags.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz brought in thousands of National Guard soldiers on Saturday to help quell the unrest.

In tweets Sunday, Trump accused anarchists and the media of fueling violence. Attorney General William Barr pointed a finger at "far left extremist" groups. Police chiefs and politicians accused outsiders of causing the problems.

Floyd's death has triggered protests beyond the United States, with thousands in Montreal and London marching in solidarity.

On the other side of the globe on Monday, thousands marched to the U.S. consulate in Auckland chanting "no justice, no peace" and "black lives matter."

Fuel...

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administration's "maximum pressure" strategy against Iran and Venezuela, saying the two allies "show no signs of bending to external pressure".

Refinitiv Eikon said on Sunday two Iranian tankers that delivered fuel to Venezuela as part of the flotilla have begun to sail back.

The supply is meant to ease fuel shortages that have plagued Venezuela. After three months of fuel rationing, Venezuelans began lining up on Saturday to wait for the Iranian gasoline to be sold at stations from Monday under a new system combining subsidies and internationally-indexed prices.

The model will put an end to over two decades of Venezuelans filling up their tanks for next to nothing.

In most of the country's 1,800 gasoline stations, motorists will be able to buy 60 to 120 liters per month at a subsidized price of about 2.5 U.S. cents per liter. After surpassing quotas, tanks will be filled at higher prices.

Venezuela's Oil Minister Tarek El Aissami said on Sunday that licenses were approved for 200 stations to sell gasoline at internationally-indexed prices without quotas. The initial price at those sites is \$0.50 per liter.

"To the people: thank you for your comprehension, for your heroic resistance and for trusting President (Nicolas) Maduro's government," he said in a televised speech.

The two first Iranian tankers that discharged fuel last week departed over the weekend from state-run PDVSA's ports. The Fortune on Sunday set sail to its origin port, Iran's Bandar Abbas, with estimated arrival in July, while the Forest on Saturday departed from the Cardon refinery, according to the Eikon data.

Iran took the bold step of sending five fuel tankers to Venezuela last month after Washington threatened foreign governments, seaports, shipping companies and insurers.

The U.S. navy also sent warships to the Caribbean in an apparent bid to discourage Iran, but the Islamic Republic's somber warning of retaliation if its vessels were intercepted forced the United States to back down.

The oil industries of Iran and Venezuela are both under U.S. sanctions. Iran is providing its fellow OPEC member up to 1.53 million barrels of gasoline and refining components to help ease an acute shortage, the result of the sanctions.

Iran...

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between Iran and Afghanistan in various fields, and expressed hope that the efforts by the two countries' officials would broaden cooperation between the two neighbors.

Since the outbreak of coronavirus in Iran in February, Afghan migrants and residents in Iran have received free medical supplies such as disinfectants, masks and gloves.

Iran has hosted Afghan refugees since the late 1970s following the occupation of their country by the Soviet Union troops. Although many of those refugees have returned to their country voluntarily, there are still millions of documented and undocumented Afghans in Iran.

Any...

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warfare against Iran have all ended in failure, he added.

The top commander also touched on Iran's strategy of "active and progressive resistance instead of stationary and passive resistance, saying it has led to the formation of resistance groups in the Islamic world and the victory of the resistance front in West Asia.

Major General Baqeri went on to say that the active resistance has defeated the Daesh terrorist group and Takfiri terrorism, thwarted the evil plots of the "greater Middle East" and the "deal of the century", and turned the U.S. withdrawal from the region into a regional and international demand.

Jailed...

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few detainees held by either side not to have been released in a prisoner exchange.

Both Iran and the United States hold a number of each other's nationals and they have recently called for them to be released amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Iran is battling one of the Middle East's deadliest outbreaks of the virus, while the U.S. has reported the highest total number of deaths worldwide from the disease.

Tensions between the two countries escalated in 2018, after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from a landmark nuclear agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran's economy.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiee said last month that Tehran had offered "some time ago" to exchange all Iranian and U.S. prisoners but was waiting for a response from the United States.

The Islamic Republic in December freed Xiyue Wang, held for espionage, in exchange for scientist Massoud Soleimani and said it was open to further swaps.

Iran has also released more than 100,000 inmates, including 1,000 foreigners, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister...

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fought this dangerous virus for 100 days, during which our health sector and the entire nation did a great job, we see acceptable conditions," Rouhani noted.

Illegal U.S. sanctions have hampered the virus battle in Iran, which reported its first COVID-19 infection cases in late February.

"There is no doubt that unilateral sanctions constitute an obstacle and are an inhumane measure, which brings about suffering and pain," Namaki said last month. "The United States must be held to account for the severe sanctions that have put the lives of Iranian people in jeopardy," he added.