



BENGHAZI, Libya (Reuters) -- Libya's internationally recognized government retook parts of southern Tripoli on Friday from the eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA) of Khalifa Haftar, whose 13-month campaign to seize the capital is under ever-greater pressure.

Fighters for the Government of National Accord (GNA) said they had advanced into several districts and overrun a military camp. The LNA said it had already pulled out of those areas in what it said was a humanitarian gesture for Ramadan.

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A jetliner carrying 98 people crashed Friday in a crowded neighborhood near the airport in Pakistan's port city of Karachi after an apparent engine failure during landing. Officials said there were at least three survivors from the plane, and it was unknown how many people on the ground were hurt, with at least five houses destroyed. The pilot of Pakistani International Airlines Flight 8303 was heard transmitting a mayday to the tower shortly before the crash of the Airbus A320, which was flying from Lahore to Karachi. Video on social media appeared to show the jet flying low over a residential area with flames shooting from one of its engines.

### Viewpoint

## Ummah Resolved to Cure the Region of the Zionist Virus

## 'Intense' Crowned Best Documentary at Venice Festival



## Iran to Participate at Thailand Five's Futsal Tournament



## Sons of Murdered Saudi Journalist Khashoggi 'Forgive' Killers



## Happy Eid al-Fetr

*"O Allah! Lord of magnificence and greatness; and Lord of generosity and overwhelming power; and Lord of pardon and mercy. We implore You for the sake of This Day which You have appointed as a Festival for the Muslims and for Muhammad (SAWA) and his progeny as a reminder, a distinction, an honour."*

We are on the eve of the grand day of Eid al-Fitr, which this year because of the Coronavirus pandemic sweeping the world, will not witness the glorious spectacle of the special congregational prayer in most countries.

Anyway, this is not a setback for the faithful, who throughout the blessed month of Ramadhan observed the commandments of God Almighty in keeping the obligatory fasts, and embellishing this unique form of worship with prayers and supplications.

Indeed, we have endeavoured to purify our minds, hearts, souls, and bodies, and the Prayer of Eid which is a thanksgiving to the Lord Most High for having rewarded the faithful with the festival of Eid Fitr, will perform the special Eid prayer in their homes, along with their families.

As indicated by the word "Fitr", the Edi starts with the giving of special alms to the poor known as "Fitrah" – made up of 3-and-a-half kg of staple diet, such as wheat, rice, barley or date; or its equivalent in money. And the faithful, despite the pandemic will fulfill this obligation.

This is yet another wonderful example of the spirit of universal brotherhood in Islam, which strives to uplift the status of the poor sections of the society, so that the message of Eid could equally be enjoyed by all classes of people. Sadly, these dynamic facts are not understood by the arrogant, especially the rulers of reactionary regimes, which are Muslim in name only, and which openly dally with the enemies of Islam against fellow Muslims. This is the reason the world of Islam is politically divided. We pray to God to awaken the conscience of the Ummah so that Islamic solidarity is fostered, in accordance with the message of the Eid.

Nonetheless, the feast in Islam should not be compared to the unbridled festivities of other creeds and cultures, where free rein is given to sins. To quote the Commander of the Faithful, Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) First Infallible Heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS):

*"Indeed Eid is for those whose fasting has been accepted by God and whose worship has been appreciated, and any day on which God has not been disobeyed is Eid."*

This year's Ramadhan with all its glories has come to its end, but unfortunately the situation of Muslims has not much improved. In Yemen, the Muslim people are marking Eid Fitr with blood and sacrifices of their near and dear ones as the Saudi airplanes continue to rain upon them bombs.

The world is watching in silence as men, women, and children are being massacred in Afghanistan and Syria, as well as in Iraq and Africa by the Godless Takfiri terrorists and other grouplets supported by the US continue to target Muslims, mostly through bomb blasts, attacks on hospitals and kidnapping of people.

In such a situation, it is our duty to strive and pray for the deliverance of Muslims worldwide on the day of Eid Fitr, whether in Yemen and Bahrain, or in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and mainland Arabia; as well as in other parts of the world, including Palestine, where the Zionist usurpers subject the Muslim people to untold atrocities, and in league with the US and reactionary Arab regimes are trying to kill the Palestinian cause through imposition of the so-called Deal of the Century, which should rightly be called Conspiracy of the Century.

At the same time we should implore divine wrath on the Zionists and the Takfiris, as well as on Global Arrogance, especially Donald Trump and his team of thugs.

Here we present you passages from the Special Eid Sermon of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS) on the occasion of Eid Fitr, which starts with due praise to Allah, blessings for Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), seeking divine assistance for the faithful and invoking divine wrath on the devilish elements: *"All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His help, have faith in Him, and put our trust in Him. We bear witness that there is no god except Allah, He is One, and He has no partner, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger; may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him and his progeny, as well as His forgiveness and approval."*

*"O Allah bless Muhammad, Your Servant, Messenger and Prophet, a blessing growing and multiplying, that will raise His rank and manifest His merit. Bless Muhammad and the Family of Muhammad and give barakah to Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad even as You blessed, granted barakah and mercy to Abraham and the progeny of Abraham, indeed You are praiseworthy and glorious."*

*"O Allah, punish the faithless from among the People of the Book who bar Your way, contest Your signs and impugn Your Prophets."*

*"O Allah, assist the armies of Muslims, their companies and brigades, in the east of the earth and its west! Indeed You have power over all things. O Allah, forgive the faithful, men and women, and the Muslim, men and women."*

*"O Allah, let Godwariness be their provision; put faith and wisdom into their hearts; inspire them to thank You for the blessings You have showered on them and to fulfill the covenant that You made with them, O God of the Truth and Creator of the creation!"*

### Liberation of Palestine an 'Islamic Duty'

# Leader: Virus of Zionism Will Be Uprooted



Ayatollah Khamenei delivers his televised speech on the occasion of Quds Day on May 22, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – **Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said it is an "Islamic duty" to fight for the "liberation of Palestine" in a landmark speech on the occasion of international Quds Day.**

Ayatollah Khamenei lashed out at Western nations and their Arab puppets for supporting the Zionist regime of Israel, saying their normalization efforts are futile.

"The policy of normalizing the presence of the Zionist regime in the region is one of the major policies of the United States of America," the Leader said.

His remarks came as millions took part in worldwide events to mark Quds Day on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemn Israeli atrocities.

Ayatollah Khamenei said, "The Zionist regime is a deadly, cancerous growth and a detriment to this region" which "will undoubtedly be uprooted and destroyed".

"And then, the shame will fall on those who put their facilities at the service of the this policy of the arrogant powers," the Leader added.

Ayatollah said the struggle to liberate Palestine is an obligation and an Islamic goal, adding "everyone must assist the Palestinian nation in this holy struggle".

"The struggle to liberate Palestine is Jihad in the way of God, and it is an obligation and an Islamic goal. Victory in this struggle has been guaranteed," the Leader said.

The following is the full text of the Leader's speech on the occasion of Quds Day.

### In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, and His peace and greetings be upon Muhammad, upon his pure Household, upon his chosen companions and upon those who follow them until the Day

of Judgment.

I extend my greetings to all the Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world and I congratulate them in advance on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr. I also pray to God to accept their worship and servitude in this Holy Month of Ramadan, and I thank the Benevolent Creator for the blessing of being present in this month of divine banquet.

Today is Quds Day, a day created - thanks to Imam Khomeini's (r.a.) intelligent initiative - to unite Muslims on the issue of Holy Quds and in support of the oppressed people of Palestine. It has played an important role in this regard for several decades now, and God willing, it will continue to do so in the future as well. Nations welcomed Quds Day and considered it to be a religious obligation to hold up the flag for Palestine's liberation. The main policy of the Arrogant Powers and Zionism is to push aside the issue of Palestine in the minds of Muslim communities

and to cause it to fade into oblivion.

### Magnitude of Tragedy and Most Urgent Responsibility

The most urgent responsibility in this regard is fighting this treachery, which is conducted by the enemy's political and cultural mercenaries in Islamic countries. The truth is that an issue as important as Palestine is not something that the pride, self-esteem and increasing intelligence of Muslim nations will allow to sink into oblivion, even if the Americans, other domineering powers and their regional minions use all their money and power to achieve this goal.

First, I would like to highlight the magnitude of the tragedy of the occupation of Palestine and the formation of the Zionist cancerous tumor in that country. Among crimes against humanity in recent times, there is no crime that equals this crime in terms of scope and gravity. Occupying a country, permanently driving its people out of their homes and their fatherland, and continuing this historical oppression for decades using the most horrifying forms of murder, crime, destruction of farmlands, and genocide – this is indeed a new record in brutality and wickedness.

The main agents and criminals behind this tragedy are the Western governments and their satanic policies. The day when the triumphant governments who had won the war in the First World War were carving up West Asia – namely, the Asian territories of the Ottoman Empire – among themselves at the Paris Conference as spoils of war, they felt the need for a safe stronghold in the heart of this region more than ever in order to guarantee their permanent hegemony. Years earlier, through the Balfour Declaration and with the help of the rich Jewish sympathizers, the British had prepared the ground for the invention of Zionism to carry out its role. And now the practical groundwork was in place. During those early years, they gradually prepared the preliminaries, and finally after the Second

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## Venezuela Says to Escort Iranian Tankers

CARACAS (Dispatches) -- **Venezuela has said its navy and air force would escort Iranian tankers arriving with much needed fuel, after Tehran warned of "consequences" if the U.S. stopped the ships from reaching their destination.**

"We're ready for whatever, whenever," President Nicolas Maduro told state-run media, thanking "all the support" from its Middle East ally in its confrontation with the United States.

Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves, but its capacity to refine crude into gasoline is limited.

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has imposed unilateral sanctions aimed at ending oil exports from Iran and Venezuela, both major crude producers. Washington has also sanctioned individual Venezuelans and Iranians.

In early April the U.S. military said it was increasing its vigilance and deploying warships in the ocean near Venezuela.

Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said that when the Iranian ships enter the oceanic economic zone -- 200 nautical miles from the coastline -- "they will be welcomed" by Venezuelan naval ships and warplanes.

Neither Maduro nor Padrino said when the ships, which according to press reports number five and sailed from Iran in the past days, will arrive.

The Iranian fuel arrives as Venezuela faces an acute scarcity of gasoline as the country endures the novel coronavirus pandemic amid the draconian American sanctions.

Venezuela's economy is in the midst of a free fall, battered by U.S. sanctions and mayhem caused by U.S.-backed rioters, with millions of people fleeing as they lack basic goods.

U.S.-backed opposition leader Juan Guaido said he was "very worried" about this "attempt of Iranian presence on Venezuelan soil".

However, people waiting in line

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## U.S. Cities Authorize Homeless Tent Encampments

SAN FRANCISCO/LONDON (AP/Reuters) — **San Francisco is joining other U.S. cities in authorizing homeless tent encampments in response to the coronavirus pandemic, a move officials have long resisted but are now reluctantly embracing to safeguard homeless people.**

About 80 tents are now neatly spaced out on a wide street near San Francisco City Hall as part of a "safe sleeping village" opened last week. The area between the city's central library and its Asian Art Museum is fenced off to outsiders, monitored around the clock and provides meals, showers, clean water and trash pickup.

In announcing the encampment, and a second one to open in the famed Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, San Francisco's mayor acknowledged that she didn't want to approve tents, but having unregulated tents mushroom on sidewalks was neither safe nor fair.

"So while in normal times I would say that we should focus on bringing people inside and not sanctioning tent encampments, we frankly do not have

many other options right now," she said in a tweet last week.

San Francisco is just the latest city to authorize encampments as shelters across the country move to thin bed counts so homeless people, who are particularly susceptible to the virus due to poor health, have more room to keep apart.

Santa Rosa in Sonoma County welcomed people this week to its first managed encampment with roughly 70 blue tents. Portland, Oregon, has three homeless camps with city-provided sleeping bags and tents, and Maricopa County opened two parking lots to homeless campers in Phoenix.

San Francisco officials have historically frowned upon mini tent cities and routinely rounded up tents on city streets. But with an estimated 150,000 homeless people in California, most of them living out in the open, it's impossible to stamp out the highly visible tents along highways and on crowded urban sidewalks.

Government-sanctioned tent camps

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