

UN: Zionist Troops Demolish, Seize 30 Palestinian Structures in 2 Weeks

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says the Zionist regime's authorities have either demolished or seized 30 Palestinian structures in the occupied West Bank and East al-Quds, displacing more than two dozen people in two weeks.

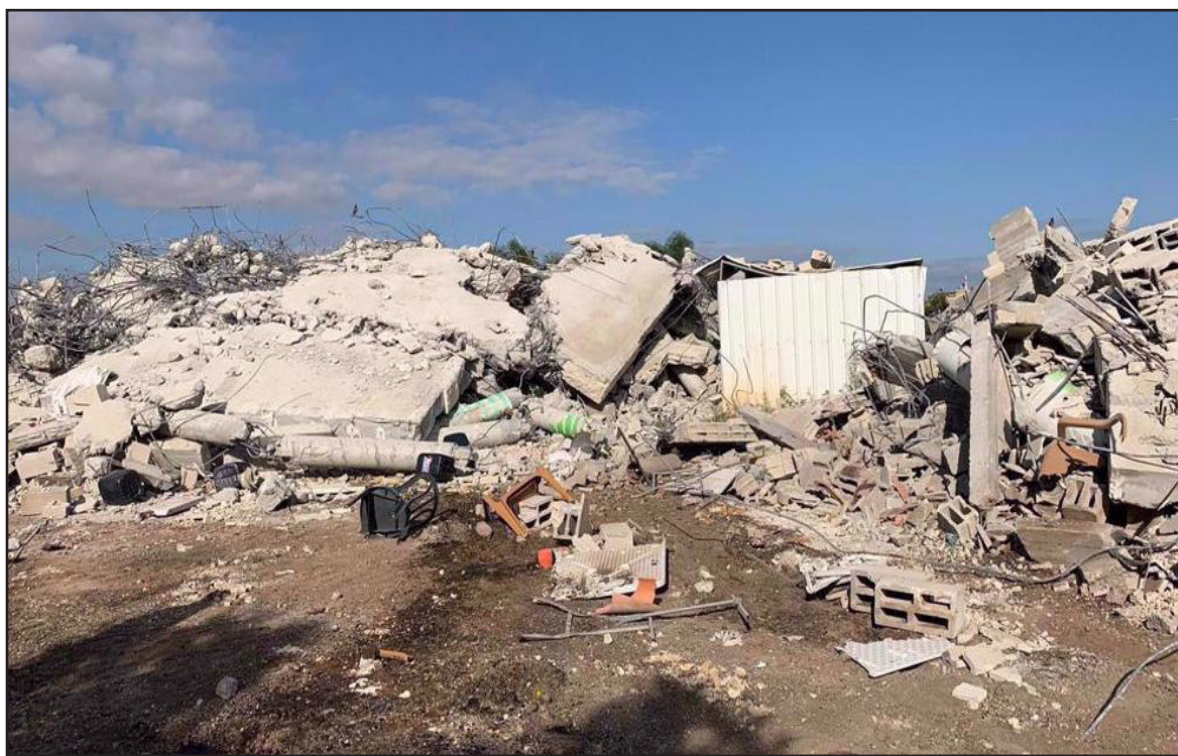
In its bi-weekly report, the UN office said the demolitions occurred from 14 to 27 July and displaced 25 people and affected around 140 others.

All the demolitions took place in the so-called Area C of the West Bank, whose management of resources, planning, and construction are under the full control of the occupying regime.

The Zionist regime strictly restricts Palestinian construction or development to less than one percent of the area.

The report, carried by Palestine's official Wafa news agency, said in one incident on July 21, the occupying regime's authorities demolished a structure on the outskirts of the southern West Bank city of al-Khalil, which was planned to be used as a COVID-19 testing center.

At least three other structures were demolished under the occupying regime's military order 1797, which permits the removal of "unauthorized" buildings



This photo shows the aftermath of four Palestinian homes demolished by Israeli bulldozers in Tira city, on May 31, 2020.

within 96 hours from the delivery of a notice.

Rights groups have time and again raised concern over procedure, which largely bars affected people from being heard before a judicial body, the report added.

The Area C accounts for more than 60 percent of the occupied West Bank, and forms a significant part of a future Palestine

state under the so-called two-state solution.

Zionist regime authorities usually demolish Palestinian homes in the occupied West Bank, claiming that the structures have been built without permits, which are nearly impossible to obtain. They also sometimes order Palestinian owners to demolish their own homes or pay the demolition

costs to the municipality if they do not.

Since early March, when the COVID-19 emergency started, the occupying regime's authorities have demolished or seized 19 inhabited homes that were in place prior to that date, displacing 104 Palestinians, the OCHA said, adding the buildings were demolished since they lacked Israeli-issued permits.

Massive Blast in Northeastern Syria Leaves Casualties

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – A car bomb blast in northeastern Syria targeting a checkpoint manned by Turkish-backed militants has killed at least five people, according to Turkey's state media.

The bombing in the village of Tal Halaf, near the border town of Ras al-Ain, also wounded 12 people, Anadolu agency reported quoting local sources.

Turkish forces and their militant allies in Syria last year

seized a 120km (75-mile) stretch of land inside the Syrian border from Kurdish forces viewed by Ankara as "terrorists", running from Ras al-Ain to Tal Abyad.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's blast. Anadolu said security forces in the area were examining the possibility that Kurdish militants may have carried out the attack.

The so-called Syrian Observa-

tory for Human Rights (SOHR), a UK-based war monitor, gave a higher casualty toll in the explosion - nine people killed and 15 wounded.

It was the latest in a series of attacks that have rocked the area in recent months, including several in the past week alone.

The SOHR said an explosives-rigged motorbike in Ras al-Ain killed two civilians and a militant on Tuesday, two days after another explosion in a vegetable

market in the town killed eight people, six of them civilians.

Ankara views the Kurdish-led so-called People's Protection Units as an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) that has waged a deadly armed campaign in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

The foreign-backed war in Syria has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions from their homes.

Turkey Says Holds UAE Accountable for Crimes

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar says that the UAE is "a functional country that serves others politically or militarily and is used remotely."

Criticizing the UAE's role in Libya and Syria, Akar said in an interview with Al Jazeera that Turkey will hold Abu Dhabi accountable at the right time and place for the malicious actions committed in Libya and Syria.

Akar called on the Emirates to "consider its small size and the extent of their impact, and not to spread sedition and corruption."

The minister also accused the Emirates of supporting "anti-Turkish terrorist organizations" with the intention of harming Ankara.

On the Libyan issue, Akar said: "I advise Egypt to refrain from statements that do not serve peace in Libya, rather, it fuels the war in it," calling on countries that back General Khalifa Haftar to stop supporting him.

"If the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Russia and France do not stop their support for the coup in Libya, a settlement for Libya's crisis will never be reached," he warned.

"These countries should prevent Haftar from achieving his goals and solve the problem of Sirte and Al-Jafra," he said in reference to Haftar's final strongholds where battles are due to commence in an effort to return them to the hands of the Turkey-backed Government of National Accord (GNA).

Saudi Bid to Buy Newcastle Ends After Piracy, Human Rights Issues

RIYADH (Dispatches) – A consortium backed by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund has withdrawn its bid to buy English Premier League club Newcastle United after the takeover process was stalled by concerns about piracy by the kingdom, and complaints that Riyadh is seeking to "sportswash" its human rights abuses through the purchase.

The group, which included Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund PIF, PCP Capital Partners and Reuben Brothers, was reported to have made a 300 million pounds (\$391m) bid to buy United from British businessman Mike Ashley.

"With a deep appreciation for the Newcastle community and the significance of its football club, we have come to the decision to withdraw our interest in acquir-

ing Newcastle United Football Club," the group said in a statement.

"We do so with regret, as we were excited and fully committed to invest in the great city of Newcastle and believe we could have returned the club to the position of its history, tradition and fans' merit.

The Premier League's board had been carrying out an examination of the proposed takeover as part of its "owners and directors test", which evaluates the suitability of ownership groups.

However, the league's CEO Richard Masters suggested last month that the proposed takeover had become complicated.

The consortium's bid withdrawal comes after the process was stalled by concerns about piracy by the kingdom and human rights complaints.

Amnesty International asked the league to consider blocking the bid because the fund was overseen by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and said he has been involved in a "sweeping crackdown on human rights".

A separate issue raised by critics of the proposed deal was Saudi Arabia's response to cases of unauthorized broadcasting of Premier League games in the country.

Last month, a World Trade Organization panel told Saudi Arabia it had breached global rules on intellectual property rights by failing to prosecute a pirate broadcaster of sports and movies in a dispute with Persian Gulf neighbor Qatar regarding the BeoutQ channel, which broadcast Premier League games.

Leader... (Continued From Page One)

Donald Trump, the Leader said, "This old man in charge, he apparently made some propaganda use out of his negotiations with North Korea. Now he wants to use (talks with Iran) for the (November 3 U.S. presidential) election."

However, Ayatollah Khamenei stressed, the ruling system in the U.S. seeks to achieve broader objectives beyond what the incumbent president seeks to gain from talks with Iran.

"They say you should abandon your defensive equipment, your regional power and national might. No man of honor interested in maintaining the country's interests would give in to such demands. This is why I am opposed to negotiation; moreover, we are in talks with the entire world, except for the U.S. and the fake Zionist regime, and there's no problem with that."

Goals of Sanctions

Ayatollah Khamenei said the enemies of the Islamic Republic seek to achieve short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals by imposing sanctions against the Iranian nation.

In the short-term, they want to impose so much pressure that the nation gets weary, exhausted, and disturbed, so much so that they stand against the establishment, he said.

"You know that last year they said and this year they say there will be a hot summer – meaning the people should come and stand against the establishment, but they themselves got the hot summer," the Leader said, apparently referring to anti-racism rallies which have been going on in the U.S. for two months now.

Their mid-term goal, he said, is to prevent the country's development through sanctions.

"They mainly seek to prevent the country's scientific development," the Leader said, citing the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists as an example of the enemy's efforts to hinder the country's scientific progress.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the enemy's long-term goal is to lead the country and the government into bankruptcy.

"One of the other goals they pursue is to dismantle the country's economy; if a country's economy collapses, it is not possible to live in that country anymore."

The enemies also seek to achieve a collateral goal, which is to cut the Islamic Republic's ties with the resistance forces in the region, Ayatollah Khamenei noted. "That's because they know the Islamic Republic will keep helping them as much as it can."

The Leader said, "We have a strategic depth in the region, based on which many nations and governments are our supporters and interested in Iran, ready to strive in the service of our goals. The enemies say you 'should give this up', but even if we do that, they will not stop there."

"When you are willing to reduce your ability to defend yourself and destroy your power in the region; when you are willing to totally abandon your nuclear industry which is vital to the country, the enemy will not be satisfied yet and will demand something new," the Leader said.

However, these dreams will never come true and as a Persian proverb says, "A camel dreams of cottonseed," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

Disinformation campaign

The Leader further pointed to a disinformation campaign, which works hand in hand with the sanctions and includes distortion of the truth and misrepresentation of the realities.

The main purpose of the disinformation campaign is to undermine the people's morale, and to offer wrong solutions to people's problems, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The enemies, the Leader said, suggest that if Iran wants the sanctions to be lifted, it must give in to U.S. demands. "This is the gist of what they say."

"Some people fall for such talks and exactly repeat what the enemies want, whether regarding the country's weaknesses or its points of progress which they belittle and offer wrong solutions," he said.

However, this campaign will fail to influence the majority of the Iranian people, because they have known the enemy and how biased it is, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader said the disinformation campaign tries to convince the Iranian people that the Islamic Republic must succumb to the U.S. demands. "If the distortion process fails, so will the sanctions," the Leader said. "The arena is the arena of war of wills; when the process of sanctions is defeated and the will of the Iranian nation remains the same, it will prevail over the will of the enemy."

Pompeo... (Continued From Page One)

defense ministry has said data for the attacks could only have been obtained "from one of the countries that possesses knowhow in satellite navigation".

Russian forces in the past have noted a "strange coincidence" of U.S. military intelligence planes flying over the Mediterranean near the two Russian bases at the moment of the attack.

Syrian, Russian and Iranian sources have also repeatedly reported on U.S. troops coordinating their assaults with Takfiri terrorists and American airlifting of senior Daesh militants during crucial battles.

Syria has recovered major territory from terrorists in Syria, but its troops and their allies in the conflict are frequently attacked by the U.S., the occupying regime of Israel and foreign-backed militants in a bid to stop further army advances.

Last month, U.S. warplanes flew dangerously close to an Iranian passenger plane and harassed it over an illegal American military base in Syria's Al-Tanf.

Muslims... (Continued From Page One)

prayers and remembered the memory of 464 Iranian pilgrims, who lost their lives during a hajj stampede in Mina in 2015, which Tehran blamed on Saudi organizers' incompetence.

Thousands of people also attended the first Eid al-Adha prayers in more than 80 years at Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque in Istanbul.

Turkish Parliament speaker Mustafa Sentop and other senior officials joined the prayers at the iconic building, which was turned back to a mosque earlier this month.

Thousands of people filled mosques in Syria, but Eid prayers were not performed in public in Damascus and its countryside after the Ministry of Endowment banned congregations due to the rise in coronavirus cases.