

**WEST BANK (Dispatches)** – The first commercial flight from the United Arab Emirates to the Israeli-occupied territories has landed at Ben-Gurion airport, more than a month after the controversial normalization deal signed between the Zionist regime and Abu Dhabi. The Zionist regime and the UAE on August 13 agreed to full normalization of relations, which caused a flurry of criticisms worldwide. Palestinians view the deal by the UAE, and after that by Bahrain, as a betrayal.

*Aid (from Allah) is in proportion to the trouble. He who practices moderation and frugality will never be threatened with poverty.*

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## Hamas: U.S. Forces Arabs to Stop Supporting Palestinians



**Palestinian protesters burn pictures of U.S. President Donald Trump and Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a demonstration in the West Bank city of Ramallah on January 28, 2020, against the expected so-called peace plan proposal.**

**GAZA STRIP (Dispatches)** – The United States has told a number of Arab states to stop giving financial support to the Palestinian Authority, Al-Aqsa TV has quoted a senior Hamas official as saying.

According to Saleh Al-Arouri, a number of states have been asked to put pressure on Fatah, which controls the Palestinian Authority (PA), in order to pull out of any reconcili-

ation with Hamas.

The deputy head of the Hamas Political Bureau added that these countries are those which sponsored the U.S. so-called “deal of the century”. He stressed, however, that Hamas is committed to the Palestinian understandings reached in Istanbul and would never backtrack on them.

Al-Arouri had also revealed that

the U.S. had offered to talk with Hamas over the “deal”, but the resistance movement refused because Washington’s intention was to split the national Palestinian stance and threaten the PLO leadership.

“Hamas refused to negotiate with the U.S. government over the deal of the century because Washington was trying to exploit the talks in order to threaten the Palestine Libera-

tion Organization (PLO) leadership by provoking divisions among Palestinian factions,” al-Arouri said.

The U.S.-proposed deal, which is completely in favor of the Zionist regime, enshrines al-Quds as “Israel’s undivided capital” and allows the regime to annex settlements in the occupied West Bank and the strategic Jordan Valley. The plan also denies the right of return to Palestinian refugees into their homeland, among other controversial terms.

All Palestinian groups have unanimously rejected the so-called deal of century that serves the occupying regime’s interests in the decades-old conflict while creating a Palestinian state with limited control over its own security and borders.

“National participation is the only response that can be given to the conspiracy of the deal of the century and [bids aimed at] elimination of the Palestinian cause,” Arouri noted.

In July, former Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said that the best way to undermine the Zionist regime’s annexation plans “is to change the function of the PA” from serving the Israeli occupation to confronting it. He stressed that if such a change was not made, the PA should be dissolved after discussions with the different Palestinian factions and reaching an agreement on a replacement in order not to end up in chaos.

## Iraqi Forces Launch Anti-Daesh Operation Near Baghdad



**Iraqi security forces and Shia fighters are seen during clashes with Daesh terrorists in Salahuddin province, March 2, 2015.**

**BAGHDAD (Dispatches)** – Iraqi security forces on Monday launched an operation to hunt down Daesh terrorists in one of their major hideouts in Salahuddin province, a provincial police source said.

Iraqi army and police forces pushed in the morning into Jazrat Ganous, an agricultural area covered with dense plants near the town of Shirqat, some 280 km north of the capital Baghdad, Mohammed al-Bazi told Xinhua.

The operation started with a heavy aircraft and artillery bombardment to pave the way for the troops to build a bridge over the adjacent Tigris River to hunt down the terrorists and destroy their hideouts, al-Bazi said.

On Saturday, unidentified assailants kidnapped 12 people from a village in Salahuddin and executed eight of them, a provincial police source said.

The heavily armed terrorists, disguised in security uniform, entered al-Farhatiyah village near the town of Balad, some 80 km north of Baghdad, and kidnapped 12 villagers to an unknown destination, al-Bazi said.

Later in the day, the police found handcuffed bodies of eight of the kidnapped villagers with bullet holes in their heads and chests, said al-Bazi.

In reaction to a massacre, Iraq’s prime minister said on Sunday his country would not allow the return

of sectarian violence.

Mustafa al-Kadhimi arrived in the province on Sunday alongside Defense Minister Najah al-Shammari and Falih Alfayyadh, who is the chairman of the Hashd al-Sha’abi or Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) anti-terror force.

The Iraqi prime minister visited the crime scene and met with the bereaved families, promising them that the atrocity would be fully investigated. He also informed the survivors that a number of the perpetrators had been placed in detention.

He vowed in a tweet that the murderous criminals would be punished “There is not going to be any return to sectarian conflict or enmity among Iraqis towards one another for political purposes.”

“We have put this stage behind us, and will never go back to it,” the premier remarked.

The vast rural areas in Salahuddin province have witnessed intense activities by foreign-backed Daesh terrorists during the past few months.

In 2003, the United States and its allies invaded the country under the banner of fighting a “war on terror” based on allegations that former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. The allegations were later proven wrong.

## U.S. Official Met With Syrian Officials to ‘Secure Americans’ Release’: Report

**DAMASCUS (Press TV)** – A senior White House official traveled to Syria earlier this year to allegedly help release a number of Americans, who are reportedly held by Damascus, the Wall Street Journal says.

The U.S. official who travelled to Syria was identified as Kash Patel, a deputy assistant to President Donald Trump, the US official, who wished to remain anonymous, told Reuters news agency, confirming the Wall Street Journal report.

WSJ, citing Trump administration officials and others familiar with the negotiations, described Patel’s trip as the first time in more than a decade that a high-level U.S. official

met with government officials of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

The purported talks, the Journal said, was expected to help release Austin Tice and Majd Kamalmaz.

The daily said Tice was what it called a “freelance journalist” and former Marine officer and Kamalmaz, a Syrian-American “therapist.”

Observers say notwithstanding the titles that American officials and sources assign to the U.S. nationals -- who strangely happen to be present in conflict zones at critical junctures -- many are later found to be on the payroll of Washington’s military or intelligence apparatus

and tasked with sabotage.

These have included the White Helmets, a Western-backed so-called aid group active in Syria that is blamed by Damascus and its ally Russia for staging false flag chemical attacks inside the Arab country to justify foreign intervention.

The Journal reported that Trump wrote Syrian President Bashar al-Assad a private letter in March, proposing a “direct dialog” about Tice.

According to the U.S. daily, the reported talks have, however, not advanced far, with Damascus pressing Washington to withdraw all its forces from the Syrian soil.

The U.S. and its allies invaded

Syria in 2014 under the pretext of fighting Daesh. The military presence continues to date, although Damascus and the countries supporting it defeated the Takfiri terrorist outfit in late 2017.

The U.S.-led presence has witnessed military build-up around Syria’s strategic areas, including the hugely sensitive al-Tanf border zone, where the Syrian, Iraqi and Jordanian borders meet. The American forces have also deployed surprising numbers in the Arab country’s oil-rich east, prompting Damascus to decry the Trump administration’s attempt at expropriating Syria’s crude resources.

## Zionist Regime Wants to Hold Erekat Hostage

**WEST BANK (Dispatches)** – Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Saeb Erekat is in “critical” condition and in a medically induced coma while Zionist parliamentarians have broached concessions in return for his coronavirus treatment.

Erekat, 65, was moved from his home in the occupied West Bank city of Ariha to occupied al-Quds’s Hadassah hospital on Sunday due to “chronic health problems in the respiratory system”.

“Mr Erekat had a quiet night but this morning his condition deteriorated, and it is now defined as critical,” a statement from the hospital’s spokeswoman, Hadar Elboim, said on Monday. His condition “deteriorated and is now defined

critical and due to respiratory distress, he is anaesthetized and ventilated.”

“Mr Erekat is a challenge to treat for coronavirus since he had lung transplants, he is immunosuppressed, and has another bacterial infection in addition to coronavirus,” the hospital said, adding it was “in contact with international medical authorities regarding the treatment policy of this complex patient”.

Some Zionist lawmakers said the occupying regime should have demanded Palestinian concessions in return for the admission of the chief Palestinian negotiator.

Michal Cotler-Wunsh, a member of the Knesset for Benny Gantz’s Blue and White party, said the regime should treat Erekat only if it re-

ceives concessions from the Palestinians.

“Again the opportunity to make a demand is clear: Medical assistance in return for the return of Hadar, Oren, Avrah and Hissam, who are held in Gaza for more than six years,” Cotler-Wunsh, said.

He was referring to Zionist troops Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul who were killed and captured by Hamas, and alleged civilians Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed held by the resistance movement.

Earlier this year, Hamas said the Zionist captives held in Gaza since Tel Aviv’s 2014 war on the blockaded Palestinian enclave will not be released until a “real” agreement is reached on exchanging prisoners.

## Turkey to Leave Posts in Syria’s Idlib, Hama: Report

**DAMASCUS (Dispatches)** – Turkish forces continued preparations on Monday to withdraw from areas controlled by the Syrian government forces in the countryside of the provinces of Hama and Idlib in northwestern Syria, a war monitor reported.

The Turkish forces are preparing to dismantle the bases and withdraw from the areas controlled by the Syrian forces, said the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Britain-based watchdog group said the Turkish forces will withdraw from Morek and Shir Maghar from the northern and western countryside of Hama as well as from six other positions in the eastern and southeastern countryside of Idlib.

There are reports that the Turkish forces might withdraw from positions it controls within government-controlled areas in the countryside of the northern province of Aleppo, according to the observatory.

The withdrawal is part of an agreement between Russia and Turkey.

Turkey’s decision to leave the occupied areas comes as a surprise, as Ankara has been adamant that it will hold onto them as leverage in future negotiations with Moscow and Damascus.

Some sources said the Turkish military has decided to withdraw following a series of developments. First, they said, Russia either blocked or severely impeded Turkey’s ability to resupply its positions.

Tensions between Turkey and Russia have risen after a series of talks between the two countries on Syria and Libya failed in Ankara last month. Both countries are now embroiled in a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia as well.

Turkish officials believe Russia could trigger a conflict in Idlib at any moment it wishes. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is adamant he will regain all the territory lost to terrorists since 2011.