

PARIS (Dispatches) -- France's foreign ministry this week summoned Iran's envoy over the country's human rights record, Reuters reported Friday, citing sources aware of the matter.

Separately, Germany on Friday issued a critical statement on Iran to the United Nations Human Rights Council. When asked whether France, in conjunction with Britain and Germany had acted collectively, to warn Iran, a foreign ministry official sidestepped the question. "The French authorities regularly express their concerns" about alleged violations of human rights in Iran, spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll said. "These concerns are shared by many partners, including Germany and the United Kingdom."

GENEVA/ZURICH (Reuters) -- The death toll from the coronavirus could double to 2 million before a successful vaccine is widely used and could be even higher without concerted action to curb the pandemic, an official at the World Health Organization said on Friday.

"Unless we do it, all the number you speak about (2 million deaths) is not only imaginable, but sadly very likely," Mike Ryan, head of the WHO emergencies programme, said in a briefing on Friday. His assessment came as the total number of deaths nine months since the virus was discovered in China neared the grim milestone of 1 million.

**Judiciary Chief: Economic Criminals Have Nowhere to Hide**



**Violence Flares in Europe Four Stabbed in Paris; Policeman Shot Dead in London**



**Iranian Teams Shine in AFC Champions League**



**Fatah, Hamas Agree on Palestinian Elections**



## New Base Gives Iran Total Control Over Persian Gulf

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) opened a new naval base along one of the world's busiest oil transit routes on the Persian Gulf.

The Shaheed Rahbari base near the port of Sirik, on the eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz, took six years to build and will give Iran "full control" of various vessels that use the channel, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, a report on Press TV's website said, citing an opening ceremony attended by IRGC commander Major General Hussein Salami.

"The country's combat operations, ship operations, reconnaissance as well as defensive and offensive operations in the Persian Gulf will further develop," Salami said.

On Wednesday the IRGC said it had flown a surveillance drone over a U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Nimitz, as it transited through the Strait of Hormuz last week, Tasnim news agency said. Its report included aerial pictures of the vessels which it said had been taken by the unmanned aircraft.

Thursday's announcement comes a month after the United Arab Emirates, Iran's neighbor across the Persian Gulf, normalized relations with the occupying regime of Israel.

Iranian officials have warned that the Islamic Republic would hold the Emiratis responsible for any repercussions from a possible military presence of the Zionist regime in the region.

The Shaheed Rahbari base lies in the southern province of Hormozgan, near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz.

"This base has been built with the purpose of total dominance over the entry and exit of extraterritorial aircraft and naval vessels" at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, General Salami said. "This location is one of the country's most strategic defensive points," he added.

In June last year, Iran shot down a U.S. Global Hawk drone over the strait after it violated the Islamic Republic's airspace.

On Wednesday, the IRGC's naval fleet received 188 combat drones and helicopters developed by Iranian aviation experts.

Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hussein Khanzadi said Thursday his force will unveil its first dock ship in November during the country's Navy Day.

He noted that with a span of 231 meters, the vessel will be 24 meters longer than Iran's Khark logistical vessel and can carry up to seven helicopters and a vast array of drones, missiles and electronic warfare equipment.

Khanzadi added that the Dena destroyer, a vessel of the Jamaran-class, is undergoing its final trial stages and is more advanced than the previously produced Jamaran

vessel.

He said that Dena, the Saba mine-hunter and the Zereh missile boat will also be unveiled in November.

Khanzadi added that he inspected Iran's second and third indigenous Fateh submarines under construction yesterday.

The Iranian navy commander added that two Iranian missile boats were currently taking part in the Russian "Caucasus 2020" war games in the Caspian Sea. Naval maneuvers with other states were being planned for the end of the current year.

Addressing the recent deployment of the American USS Nimitz aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf, Khanzadi said that Iran monitors U.S. naval forces "the moment they set sail from port".

The Iranian Navy conducts its operations, such as monitoring and controlling the movements of U.S. vessels with complete coordination with the IRGC.

"The American terrorists are monitored by the Iranian Army's Navy in the Arabian Sea. Once they enter the Persian Gulf, it's the IRGC which monitors them," he said.

Noting that the American fleet had avoided the Persian Gulf in the past ten months, he said that the American navy had been previously positioned about 600 to 700 kilometers away from Iran's shores.

"They thought they were safe from our range, not knowing that they were continuously being monitored by us," he added.

Khanzadi also said the Americans' presence is meant to give mental assurance to their minions in the region, noting that the waters under Iranian rule are highly secure, and that upon receiving any signal from a vessel, the name of its commander, the courses he has undertaken and his characteristics are displayed as they are all stored in our databases.

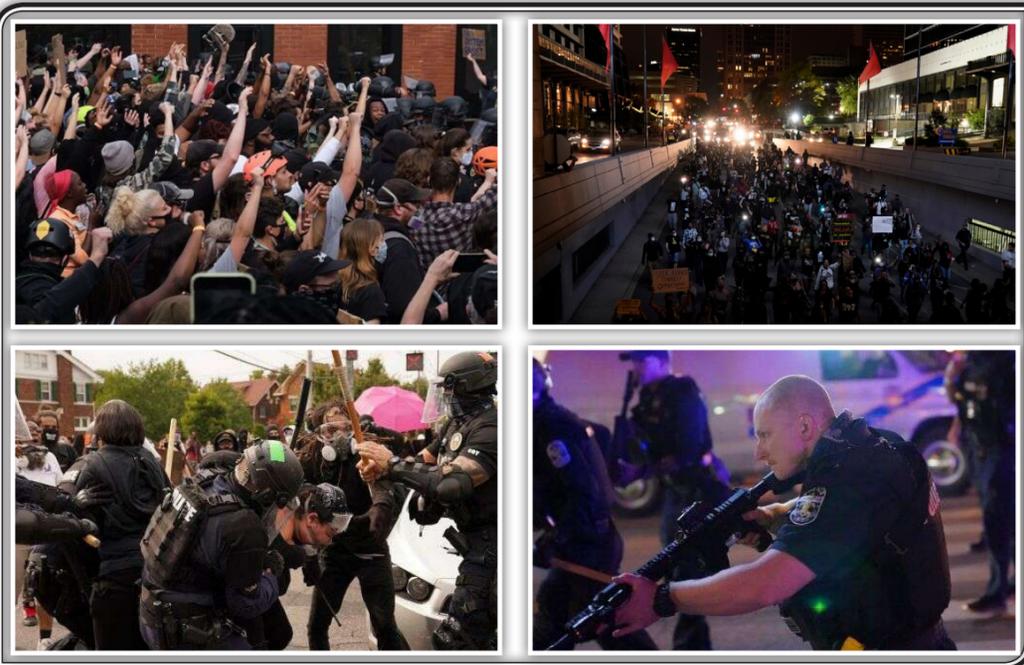
Also speaking on Thursday, IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said that the force will unveil an oceangoing vessel in the near future spanning 65 meters and capable of carrying helicopters.

He added the IRGC Navy will acquire drone and helicopter-carrying vessels this year.

A military advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warned the U.S. that any hostile action against the Iranian nation will be met with a "decisive response," advising President Donald Trump not to "play with the lion's tail".

Hussein Dehqan, also a former defense minister, blasted Trump for using his address to the United Nations to shamelessly boast about his order in January to assassinate Iranian anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani.

## U.S. Cities Hit by New Protests After Court Ruling



This combo shows protesters and riot police confronting them in Louisville, Kentucky, on Sept. 23, 2020, after a judge quashed charges against police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor in March.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Dispatches) — A second night of anti-racism protests got off to a tense but mostly peaceful start in Louisville, Kentucky, on Thursday, a day after a grand jury decided not to bring homicide charges against police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

As a curfew went into effect after dark and police declared an unlawful assembly, hundreds of protesters who had marched through the city for hours retreated to the grounds of the First Unitarian Church, set aside by organizers as a sanctuary near the Ohio River

waterfront.

Angry demonstrations and sporadic clashes between police and protesters in the hours following the grand jury announcement turned bloody late on Wednesday when two police officers on crowd-control duty were shot and wounded.

Louisville police chief Robert Schroeder, his department reinforced by state police and Kentucky National Guard troops, said he expected protests to continue for days, and a nighttime curfew was extended through the weekend.

"For all of us it is a very tense and emotional time," Schroeder told a

news conference on Thursday. Police said 127 arrests were made in the first night of protests, most for curfew violations or disobeying orders to disperse.

The protests began on Wednesday after the grand jury decided that none of the three white officers who collectively fired 32 gunshots as they stormed Breonna Taylor's apartment would be charged with causing her death.

Taylor, 26, a Black emergency medical technician and aspiring nurse, was struck by six bullets moments after she and her fiancé, Kenneth Walker, were roused from

bed in the commotion of the raid.

The grand jury decision, announced by Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, was immediately denounced by civil rights advocates as the latest miscarriage of justice in a U.S. law enforcement system corrupted by racial inequity.

Protests also flared on Wednesday in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Washington, Oakland, Philadelphia, Denver and Portland, Oregon, Seattle and Buffalo, New York.

Taylor's slaying initially drew little national attention. But it was thrust into prominence after George Floyd, a Black man arrested for a non-violent offense in Minneapolis, died under the knee of a white police officer on May 25, igniting a summer of protests against racial injustice and excessive police force.

On Thursday evening in Louisville, a throng of protesters was seen by a Reuters journalist confronting a group of about 15 armed individuals dressed in military-style gear who identified themselves as members of the Oath Keepers, an organization associated with the militia movement.

**Cop Rides Bike Over Protester's Head**

An American police officer was captured on video riding his bicycle over the head of an anti-racism demonstrator in the U.S. city of Seattle, Washington.

The video of the incident went viral in the early hours of Thursday, (Continued on Page 7)

## Yemeni Missile Kills, Injures Scores of Saudi Troops

SANAA (Dispatches) -- The Yemeni army backed by popular committees has launched a retaliatory missile attack against a military base near the Saudi border, leaving scores of casualties.

The Wednesday night's missile attack struck a military base located in Yemen's Saada governorate on the border with Dhahran in southern Saudi Arabia.

It reportedly targeted a concentration of Saudi-backed forces loyal to the fugitive Yemeni president Riyadh is trying to get back into power through its five-year war on Yemen.

A report by Al Jazeera said at least 10 were killed and several others wounded in the Yemeni attack. Other reports said at least 80 troops were either killed or injured in the attack.

Earlier this month, Yemeni armed forces launched missile and drones strikes against a strategic target in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, stepping up their retaliation against the aggressor kingdom.

Spokesman for the Yemeni Armed

Forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree said a domestically-developed Zolfagar ballistic missile and four Samad-3 drones were used to hit the "important target" in Riyadh in early September.

He said Yemeni forces would keep up their retaliatory attacks against sensitive and strategic targets on Saudi soil as long as Riyadh and its allies fail to end their military campaign and siege against Yemen.

Saudi Arabia launched a devastating military aggression against its southern neighbor in March 2015, with arms support from certain Western countries.

The purported aim was to return to power the Riyadh-backed former regime of Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi and defeat the Houthi movement that took control of state matters after the resignation of the then president and his government.

The UN refers to the situation in Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than half of hospitals and clinics destroyed or closed.

## Russia, Iran Discuss Joint Production of COVID Vaccine

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Iran and Russia's sovereign wealth fund are discussing the joint production of a vaccine against COVID-19, Russian news agencies cited the Iranian ambassador to Moscow as saying on Friday.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) has said it is in talks with a number of countries about the possibility of producing the Russian 'Sputnik-V' vaccine abroad, and has signed a deal to manufacture 300 million doses in India.

"We are holding talks, I spoke with the head of RDIF Kirill Dmitriev, our officials have held several rounds of consultations and we announced that we will co-operate," Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali was quoted as saying.

"We announced that we will co-operate in two-three areas. That includes joint production with Russia. Iran has great potential to

produce the vaccine," Jalali was quoted as saying.

RDIF declined to comment on the Iran talks. RDIF has also struck several deals in recent weeks to supply the vaccine, which is currently being tested in a large-scale trial in Moscow, abroad.

It has signed deals with Kazakhstan and two states in Brazil, and private pharmaceutical firms in India and Mexico.

RDIF also said earlier on Friday it would supply 35 million doses to Laxisam, a pharmaceutical firm in Uzbekistan.

Iran's death toll from the novel coronavirus rose by 207 to 25,222 on Friday, with the total number of identified cases spiking to 439,882, a health ministry spokeswoman said.

It was the highest single-day death toll since the ministry registered 216 deaths on August 1.

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