

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Wednesday urged "prudent restraint" after Iran's Operation True Promise in retaliation for its April 1 bombing of the Iranian consulate in Damascus.

Baerbock said she had made clear during her talks with Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, and others that West Asia must not get into a perilous situation. "The region must not slide into a situation whose outcome is completely unpredictable," she told reporters.

Kayhan International



ALGIERS (Dispatches) -- Just two days after its opening in Algeria, the American fast-food chain, KFC, closed its first branch in the capital, Algiers, amid protests over U.S. support to Israel, Anadolu Agency reported.

KFC, along with several other Western brands, faces boycott campaigns worldwide over accusations of financially supporting Israel in its destructive war on the Gaza Strip. The KFC branch in the Dali Ibrahim area, west of Algiers, closed its doors on Wednesday two days after its opening on Monday, according to Algerian media.

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Viewpoint

Western Regimes Bewildered by Operation True Promise

Putin: Iran Punished Aggressor With Tact, Rationality



Leader Congratulates Iranian Wrestlers on Winning Asia Titles



Reports: Palestinian Detainees Subjected to 'Terrible Crimes' by Israel



Iran Celebrates Success of Operation True Promise

TEHRAN -- Iran celebrated the success of its weekend drone and missile attack on the occupying regime of Israel as it staged an annual military parade on Wednesday.

The Islamic Republic launched its first-ever direct attack on the Zionist regime on Saturday in response to an April 1 airstrike on its consulate in Damascus.

The operation dubbed True Promise "brought down the glory of the Zionist regime," President Ebrahim Raisi said at a military base on the outskirts of Tehran.

"This operation showed that our armed forces are ready," he said in a speech addressed to the regular army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iran's retaliatory operation, he said, inflicted not only a military defeat but also a strategic setback on the occupying Tel Aviv regime, and dissuaded certain regional Arab countries seeking to normalize diplomatic ties with the Zionist entity.

"The Zionist regime's defeat was an intelligence, security and military one; but it was a strategic setback above all. Some countries sought to normalize relations with the Zionist regime, but they are now humiliated in the eyes of their own nations. This was a strategic failure for that regime."

Wednesday's parade saw the Iranian armed forces showcase a range of military equipment including drones and long-range ballistic missiles.

The president said, "The Army stands by the nation and acts to defend the homeland, territorial integrity and the values of the Islamic Revolution. Our army has distinguished itself from other armies in the world in terms of belief



Military trucks march past President Ebrahim Raisi and military commanders during a parade as part of a ceremony marking the country's annual Army Day in Tehran on April 17, 2024.

and faith in God and reliance on divine power.

"Our army is a skilled and trained force. Its military know-how is up-to-date and such a skill has distinguished the Iranian Army. The army is equipped with sophisticated innovations and technologies. The hardware that once had to be operated by other countries before the Islamic Revolution, is now updated by capable technicians in the Armed Forces."

Raisi emphasized that Iran has achieved technical, industrial, military, and indig-

enous independence, thanks to the efforts of young specialists in the armed forces.

He said the Islamic Republic's military capabilities, including the production of fighter jets, vessels, tanks, and smart systems, have established the nation as a formidable force both regionally and globally.

"Our equipped and updated Army, alongside the IRGC and other armed forces, constitute the pillars of our nation's authority,"

Raisi said, stressing that regional forces can rely on Iranian armed forces.

The president reiterated warnings against "the slightest act of aggression" by the occupying regime, saying it would lead to "a fierce and severe response".

Iran says the attack was limited and carried out in "self-defense" following the strike on its consulate in the Syrian capital, and proved that the regime's power is like a spider's web.

"Operation True Promise was a limited and not a comprehensive measure. If

we had carried out a stronger operation, nothing would then have been left out of Israel," he said.

In his speech, Raisi also hit out at countries that had "sought to normalize relations" with Israel.

"These countries are now humiliated in front of their own people which constitutes a strategic failure for the regime" of Israel, he added.

Raisi pointed to the growing global support for Palestine as well as simmering resentment against the United States and Israel, emphasizing that support for Palestine and the resistance front has now become the ensign of all nations and religions.

In 2020, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco normalized relations with the Zionist regime as part of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords, vehemently criticized by the Palestinians.

Egypt and Jordan signed peace accords with Israel in 1979 and 1994, respectively.

The head of Iran's military said the country's security forces are on high alert, speaking on the sidelines of the military parade.

Maj. Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi said even deadlier weapons were kept out of the parade but will be deployed in case of an Israeli retaliation for a weekend drone and missile attack.

"Currently, we are in a state of readiness to deal with possible evils, and what we displayed throughout the country today was a small part of our capabilities," he said.

He also said the Zionist regime has decided not to embark on a military response due to its monitoring of Iran's defensive measures.

Navy to Escort Commercial Ships to Red Sea

TEHRAN -- Navy chief Admiral Shahram Irani said Wednesday Iran would escort its commercial ships to the Red Sea, adding that the country would be prepared to escort ships from other nations.

"The Navy is carrying out a mission to escort Iranian commercial ships to the Red Sea and our Jamaran frigate is present in the Gulf of Aden in this view," Irani said.

Irani's comments came a day after the European Union's naval mission to the Red Sea announced it would require more combat ships. The mission's commander, Rear Admiral Vasileios Gryparis, added that its operations had not been affected by the Iranian weekend attack on Israel.

Hours before the attack, IRGC forces near the Strait of Hormuz seized MSC Aries, a Portuguese-flagged container ship that Tehran said is linked to Israel.

Other vessels suspected of links to Israel had earlier been targeted in the Red Sea by Yemen. The Yemeni forces say they are acting in support of Palestinians in Gaza amid Israel's atrocious war.

President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday said, "Our armed forces are ensuring security and peace and establishing sovereignty across the region, and are completely reliable."

The Iranian president urged regional countries to rely on their own assets and Muslim forces rather than foreign interference and partnerships with Israel.

Many Injured in Hezbollah Strike on Zionist Military Center

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- At least 18 people have been injured, some of them seriously, in a drone and missile attack by Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah that hit an Israeli military center near the Lebanese border, Israeli media reported Wednesday.

Earlier, a spokesperson for the Israeli military said 14 soldiers had been injured, six of them seriously, two moderately, and six others lightly.

The regime's Walla news website said the Hezbollah attack was "a carefully planned ambush."

Another Israeli media report said Hezbollah drones hit the target they were directed at without warning, and the regime's army has no answers to the question of where they were sent from.

Hezbollah also reported its operation, with a statement saying the resistance movement had attacked a Zionist army base on the northern side of the Israeli-occupied territories in response to the regime's unrelenting strikes on Gaza and repeated assaults on Lebanon's southern regions.

Hezbollah said it launched "a combined attack with guided missiles and explosive drones on a new military reconnaissance command center in Arab al-Aramshe," a village near the Lebanese border. Hezbollah said the attack came "in response to the enemy assassinating several resistance fighters in Ain Baal and Shehabiya."

On Tuesday, the resistance movement said three of its members had been martyred by Israeli attacks.

Israeli media say the regime has imposed a ban on gatherings in settlements from zero to four kilometers from the Lebanese border.

Hezbollah also conducted several other operations on Wednesday, including an attack on the Zibdin barracks in the occupied Lebanese Shebaa Farms using Falaq-1 missiles.

The regime said it had struck Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. Lebanese media have reported attacks targeting areas

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Israeli Drones Lure Palestinians With Baby Cries, Then Shoot Them

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- Israeli quadcopters are employing a "bizarre" new tactic of playing audio recordings of crying infants and women in order to lure Palestinians to locations where they can be targeted.

On Sunday and Monday night, residents of the northern parts of Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp woke up to the sounds of babies crying and women calling out for help.

When they went outside to locate the source of the cries and provide aid, Israeli quadcopters reportedly opened fire directly at them.

Samira Abu al-Leil, a resident of the refugee camp, told Middle East Eye that she heard Israeli quadcopters opening fire during and shortly after playing the recorded sounds, which lasted for several minutes and recurred multiple times on Monday night.

"I heard a woman crying and screaming for help, saying, 'Help me, my son was martyred'. The sounds were coming from the street and they were bizarre," the 49-year-old said.

"Some men rushed out to the rescue, only to be shot by the quadcopters that kept roaming all night long."

According to eyewitnesses, at least seven to 10 people were injured by the quadcopter fire overnight.

Residents were unable to help the victims, as the "quadcopters were firing at anything that moved". However, an ambulance managed to reach the area and transport them to hospital.

"At night, the streets are usually empty and men are inside their homes," Leil added. "When the quadcopters open fire, they only hit the roofs and streets, they don't find any people to shoot. So they played these sounds because they know the nature of our society; they know that men were going to try to provide help. They wanted them to go out so that they could shoot them," she said.

"Yesterday and the night before, quadcopter bullets hit our roof, door and the street in front of our

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