

Trump Says Again:

U.S. Can 'Win' Afghan War, Killing 10 Million

WASHINGTON (Press TV) – U.S. President Donald Trump has once again boasted that he could “win” the Afghanistan war “in a week” without using nuclear weapons, further insisting that the effort “would have to” involve killing 10 million Afghans.

“As I’ve said, and I’ll say it any number of times – and this is not using nuclear – we could win that war in a week if we wanted to fight it, but I’m not looking to kill 10 million people,” Trump reiterated while speaking to reporters in the White House during a meeting with his Romanian counterpart.

“I’m not looking to kill 10 million Afghans, because that’s what would have to happen, and I’m not looking to do that,” added the hawkish American president, without elaborating on how he would accomplish the swift conclusion of the US military’s 18-year war on Afghanistan.

U.S.-led forces invaded war-ravaged Afghanistan in 2001 as part of Washington’s so-called ‘war on terror’ campaign to purportedly rid the country from terrorism – then led by Saudi-linked al-Qaeda terror group and the rule of allied Taliban militants.

However, since the massive U.S.-led occupation of the country, Taliban-led terrorism and



Afghan security personnel investigate at the site of a bomb explosion in front of Kabul University, in Kabul, Afghanistan, on July 19, 2019. Some 18 years after a U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, the country continues to be infested by violence.

narcotics trade has drastically expanded across Afghanistan with American military commanders there admitting that the Taliban militants remain in control of most of the country, leading Washington to initiate “peace” negotiations with the notorious militant group years ago – which remains ongoing amid U.S. claims that Taliban has pledged to rid Afghanistan from terrorism, prevent other terror groups from using the nation as a base to attack U.S. interests, and even commit to women rights, despite its track

record of brutal treatment of the country’s female population and fiercely opposing their pursuit of education.

Trump’s latest remarks followed similar unprecedented claims he made last month when he also insisted that he could end the Afghan war “in a week,” drawing speculation on how he would go about such a plan.

“I could win that war in a week. I just don’t want to kill 10 million people,” Trump emphasized while hosting Pakistani President Imran Khan in Washington during

a meeting with Pakistan’s prime minister on July 22, adding: “If I wanted to win that war, Afghanistan would be wiped off the face of the earth. ... It would be over in — literally, in 10 days.”

The appalling remarks left many wondering whether the American president was contemplating the use of nuclear weapons against Afghanistan, as Afghans expressed alarm and fury over the assertions with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani seeking “clarification” on Trump’s comments through diplomatic channels.

This is while Trump also underlined during his Tuesday remarks that it’s “ridiculous” that the US has remained in Afghanistan for 18 years, repeating his belief that American troops are acting as a “police force” there.

He further added that Afghanistan is a “dangerous place” and indicated he is open to maintaining a residual force there, noting that the country “does seem to be the Harvard University of terrorism.”

“It’s a dangerous place and we have to always keep an eye on it,” Trump also asserted. “We are bringing some of our troops back, but we have to have a presence.”

“We’ll always have intelligence, and we’ll always have somebody there,” he then vowed.

Leader...

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“You should not fear the enemy because this enemy has existed since the dawn of the Islamic Republic and has done anything it could but failed,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

“America, Europe and even the defunct Soviet Union have done anything they could against the Islamic Republic over the past 40 years but they failed. Indeed, they caused harm and trouble but have not been able to hamper the Islam establishment’s progress,” he added.

Hailing the achievements and progress made by the country in political, defense and economic sectors, Ayatollah Khamenei said the enemy cannot do a damn thing against Iran, reiterating the Islamic Republic’s next 40 years will be better for Iran but worse for the enemies.

The Leader also expressed concern about tensions in Kashmir, urging India to follow a fair policy with respect to people of the Muslim-majority region.

“We maintain good relations with the Indian government, but the Indian government is expected to adopt a fair policy toward the decent people of Kashmir so that the Muslim people of the region are not put under pressure.”

The Leader described the current situation in Kashmir and the dispute between India and Pakistan over the region as the ensuing result of Britain’s “malicious measures” when it departed the Indian subcontinent.

“To prolong the conflict in Kashmir, the British intentionally left this wound [open] in the region,” the Leader said.

President Rouhani said at the meeting that if Iran’s oil exports are cut to zero, international waterways will not have the same security as before.

“World powers know that in the case that oil is completely sanctioned and Iran’s oil exports are brought down to zero, international waterways can’t have the same security as before,” Rouhani said.

“So unilateral pressure against Iran can’t be to their advantage and won’t guarantee their security in the region and the world.”

Yemen...

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was unlikely to lead to any major response by the United States.

The other official cautioned that it was too early to tell who was responsible for the incident.

In a statement, the U.S. military said it was investigating reports that a drone had been attacked “in authorized airspace.”

Iran rejects accusations from the United States and its Persian Gulf Arab allies that Tehran is providing military and financial support to the Houthis and their allies in the Yemeni army and blames Riyadh for the deepening crisis there.

Overnight, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sare’e said that the drone had been shot down.

“The rocket which hit it was developed locally and will be revealed soon at a press conference,” Sare’e said on Twitter. “Our skies are no longer open to violations as they once were and the coming days will see great surprises,” he said, noting that the drone belonged to Saudi Arabia.

In June, Iran shot down a U.S. Global Hawk drone, far larger than the MQ-9 drone. Trump later boasted he had called off the strikes because it could have killed 150 people, but many analysts cast doubt on the claim.

UAE...

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purchased two executive jets from the Canadian firm Bombardier (serial numbers 9494, 9517) in 2012, for about 43 million euros per plane, it said.

AGT was also responsible for providing a substantial amount of the systems installed in the aircraft.

However, the upgrading itself was done by the British firm Marshall, contracted by AGT, as part of a deal worth almost \$100 million.

Earlier, the Wall Street Journal reported the occupying regime of Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE were exchanging intelligence about Iran.

The Tony Blair Institute revealed in August last year that the Zionist regime was running trade relations of up to \$1 billion annually with the Persian Gulf Arab states.

Jamal al-Suwaidi, founder of the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, told the British newspaper the Guardian in an interview in March that the Palestinian issue was no longer at the top of the agenda in the Persian Gulf states.

Zionist FM Israel Katz told a ministers’ meeting in Jerusalem Al-Quds on August 6 that he was working toward “transparent

normalization and signed agreements” with a number of Persian Gulf littoral states.

Trump...

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University of Copenhagen, said Trump was acting like “an ignorant colonial overlord”.

“Trump’s idea of purchasing Greenland is absurd, and it is absurd that he is now cancelling his state visit to Denmark when he knows that there is no chance Greenland will become the 51st state of America,” he told AFP.

Meanwhile, former U.S. ambassador to Denmark Rufus Gifford wrote on Twitter: “He asks for an invitation from a great friend and ally. The Queen obliges invites him for a state visit. He declares the visit contingent on the great friend selling part of its territory to him. This is. Not. Normal.”

Nonetheless, conservative daily Jyllands-Posten wrote that Trump’s actions ultimately benefitted Denmark, highlighting Greenland’s geopolitical value.

“Mette Frederiksen has been given the opportunity to emphasize that Greenland’s big affairs are in fact decided in Copenhagen... strengthening Denmark’s position in this great strategic game at stake over the Arctic,” it said.

The Wall Street Journal first reported that Trump had expressed interest in the self-governing part of Denmark -- which is mostly covered in ice -- asking advisors if it would be possible for the U.S. to acquire the territory.

The president, a former real estate magnate, has been curious about the area’s natural resources and geopolitical relevance, the paper said.

Asked on Sunday if he would consider trading a U.S. territory for Greenland, Trump replied that “a lot of things could be done.”

“Essentially, it’s a large real estate deal.” Denmark colonized the 772,000 square-mile (two-million square-kilometer) island in the 18th century. It is home to around 57,000 people, most of them from the indigenous Inuit community.

Greenland’s foreign affairs ministry insisted Friday the island was ready to talk business but was not for sale.

The territory is home to the U.S. airbase Thule, crucial during the Cold War as a first line of monitoring against a potential Russian attack.

But the melting polar ice sheet is opening up potentially major shipping routes, and untapped reserves of oil, gas and minerals will become increasingly accessible, leading Russia and China to show mounting interest in the region.

As far back as 1867, the State Department expressed interest in the island. And in 1946, President Harry S. Truman offered \$100 million in gold, or parts of Alaska, in exchange for Greenland.

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right to self-defense,” Takht-e Ravanchi told the Security Council.

Iran’s envoy to the United Nations highlighted that Tehran will continue to ensure security of maritime navigation in the Middle East, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz, adding that the United States’ attempts to set up a military coalition in the Persian Gulf to counter what it calls the “Iran threat” will fail.

U.S. Marine General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on July 9 that the United States was proceeding with plans to assemble the coalition purportedly aimed at ensuring freedom of navigation in waters off Iran and Yemen.

“We’re engaging now with a number of countries to see if we can put together a coalition that would ensure freedom of navigation both in the Straits of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab,” Dunford said.

“And so I think probably over the next couple of weeks we’ll identify which nations have the political will to support that initiative and then we’ll work directly with the militaries to identify the specific capabilities that’ll support that,” he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Takht-e Ravanchi referred to the Palestinian issue as the greatest and longest-running conflict in the Middle East, stressing that the region will not witness peace and security as long as the crisis is not resolved.

“The illegal occupation of Palestine is fully liable for the problem. Therefore, its solution lies in the end to the occupation. There is no magical key to the conflict.”

“All initiatives have disregarded such a principle and have failed as a result. The so-called deal of century – proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump – will not hence succeed. The Palestinian land is not up for sale. The ideals, glory, dignity and the inalienable rights of a nation cannot be bought,” the Iranian diplomat said.

As Syrian Army Takes Control

Residents of Khan Sheikhoun Torch Terrorist Ringleader’s Photos

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Civilians in the city of Khan Sheikhoun in southern Idlib have set on fire the photos of ringleader of Tahrir al-Sham after the Syrian Army entered the city and defeated the terrorist group, the Arabic-language media outlets reported.

The Arabic-language Al-Mayadeen TV news channel released a video, quoting media activists as saying that after the collapse of Tahrir al-Sham in Khan Sheikhoun and withdrawal of the terrorists from this region, the photos of Abu Mohammed al-Jolani were set ablaze.

The remaining Tahrir al-Sham terrorists who are in southern Idlib have asked for help from their comrades after the Syrian Army laid siege on Khan Sheikhoun. On Monday, the Syrian Army managed to enter Khan Sheikhoun after five years.

The Damascus Army troops kept on their clashes with the terrorists in northwestern Khan Sheikhoun in southern Idlib, and took control of al-Faqir military post and deployed only 900 meters from Aleppo-Damascus Highway around Khan Sheikhoun.

The Syrian Army continued its advances in southern Idlib around Khan Sheikhoun city, and it is now close to lay a full siege to areas under the control of the terrorists in Hama, the Arabic-language media outlets said.

The Arabic-language website of the Russian Sputnik news agency reported that the Syrian Army engaged in fierce clashes with the terrorists east of Khan Sheikhoun city in southern Idlib, and took control of the strategic Tarai town and hilltop.

The Arabic-language al-Mayadeen TV network reported that the Syrian Army took control of the towns of Kafar Zita, al-Tamaneh, Ma’arkabeh, Lahaya, Latmin, Mourek and al-Sayyad in northern Hama.

President Bashar al-Assad has censured Turkey over sending a military convoy to Syria’s embattled northwestern province of Idlib, stressing that the move clearly shows that the Ankara government is offering generous support to Takfiri terrorists who have lost ground amid government forces’ push to retake the last militant-held area in the country.

Speaking in a meeting with a visiting Russian delegation from the ruling United Russia political party in Damascus on Tuesday, Assad said the recent developments in Idlib point to Turkey’s clear and unlimited support for the foreign-sponsored extremists.

He added that Syrian army troopers have, nevertheless, succeeded to score victories against terrorists, particularly in Idlib, irrespective of support provided by Western and regional countries to them.

Egypt, China Conduct Joint Naval Drill in Mediterranean

CAIRO (Xinhua) – Joint naval forces from Egypt and China have carried out a drill in the Mediterranean Sea, Egyptian armed forces said in a statement.

A number of naval units including the

Chinese missile destroyer “Xi’an” participated in the exercises.

The exercises included several activities on combating terrorism and fostering maritime security, inspections of

ships, and sailing at night, the statement said.

“The drill aims to support ongoing cooperation between the Egyptian and Chinese naval forces,” it added.