

Zionist Regime Strikes Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has attacked different locations in the Gaza Strip allegedly “in response to a rocket” fired earlier from the Palestinian enclave.

“Israeli artillery targeted monitoring sites of al-Qassam brigades, the military wing of Hamas in the central and northern Gaza Strip, causing huge damages,” Palestinian security sources said.

Gaza has been under siege by the Zionist regime since June 2007 and the occupying regime’s military frequently bombs the coastal enclave, with civilians being the main target of such attacks.

Importance of the deeds that you have done with fear of Allah cannot be minimized and how can the deeds which are acceptable to Allah be considered unimportant.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Zionist Regime Plans Thousands of Illegal Settlement Homes

Expert: U.S. Changing UNIFIL Mandate to Target Hezbollah



A view of the Ramat Givat Zeev settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank March 19, 2020

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has announced a plan for thousands of new illegal settlement homes in the occupied West Bank as Washington has voiced readiness to back de facto annexations by the Zionist regime there.

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is trying to clinch a deal to form a coalition cabinet, wants to start cabinet discussions on July 1 about declaring the Zionist regime’s so-called ‘sovereignty’ over the settlements and the strategically important Jordan Valley in the West Bank.

Fresh construction for the settlement of Efrat was approved on land that could accommodate “around 7,000 housing units,” war minister Naftali Bennett’s office said in a statement.

“The building momentum must not be stopped, even for a

second,” tweeted Bennett, a religious-nationalist in Netanyahu’s current caretaker cabinet.

The settlements are deemed illegal by most world powers and condemned by the Palestinians, who see all the West Bank, which the Zionist regime captured in a 1967 war.

The United States has offered to recognize the regime’s ‘sovereignty’ in the West Bank as part of a proposal President Donald Trump unveiled in February, which also envisages talks on founding a Palestinian state in up to 70% of the territory.

Palestinians say the plan is biased against them, and have boycotted Washington’s mediation efforts since it recognized al-Quds as the Zionist regime’s ‘capital’ in late 2017.

“The Trump administration’s annexation plan endorses everything that the illegal Israeli colonial-settlement enterprise is about: A racist narrative, violations of international law and the perpetuation of the denial of Palestinian rights,” Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said.



The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) forces patrolling Lebanon’s southern border

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – A senior Lebanese expert says the U.S. claims that they want a review of the mandate given to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) forces is aimed at hitting a blow to the Hezbollah resistance movement.

“American pressure comes within the battle of Israel against Lebanon in general, and Hezbollah in particular,” Brigadier General Charles Abi Nader, the Lebanese security and strategic expert, was quoted by the Arabic-language website of Sputnik as saying on Wednesday.

He said that “Washington has always been playing the game of Israeli occupation in the file, but in practice, the occupation state is always the aggressor in Lebanon, Syria and the region.”

“Hezbollah does not take any action that contradicts Resolution 1701, while Israel continues its attacks continuously to penetrate Lebanese airspace, and to cross the Blue Line at reserved points on the borders with Lebanon,” Ali Nader said.

The recent U.S. claims were followed by a closed session at the Security Council by video, during

which the United Nations Special Coordinator in Lebanon, Jan Kubitsch, briefed the members on the latest report of the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, on the implementation of Resolution 1701.

This was followed by the tweet from the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, Kelly Kraft, on Twitter, where she said, “Lebanon is going through an unprecedented crisis, and in need of reform that provides an economic opportunity and ends corruption.”

But Kraft claimed, “The United States remains committed to its partnership with Lebanon. But UNIFIL continues to be prevented from fulfilling its mandate. Hezbollah has been able to arm itself and expand operations, putting the Lebanese people at risk.”

Citing a source, Russia’s Sputnik Arabic said Washington wants to implement the UNIFIL instructions of the American administration, and its saying, “The Security Council must either seek a serious change to enable UNIFIL, or it should reorganize its staff and resources with tasks that can be achieved.”

Lebanon Urges Unity to Tackle Economic Crisis

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanese must set aside their differences as the country has no time to lose in tackling its major financial crisis, Prime Minister Hassan Diab warned on Wednesday, saying a government recovery plan was not a sacred text and could be amended.

The government approved the plan last week, announcing that it would form the basis of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for aid.

Diab was speaking at a meeting of Lebanon’s fractious sectarian leadership to review the plan, which maps out vast losses in the financial system. President Michel Aoun said

the IMF was a “mandatory path” for recovery.

The government proposals have encountered strong criticism from the commercial banking sector which, according to the plan, is set to sustain losses of some \$83.2 billion.

“Time is very precious. The accumulated losses are very big. The situation is very painful, and the chance to rectify (the situation) will not last long,” Diab told the meeting convened at the presidential palace.

He urged political parties, economic syndicates and the banks to set aside differences.

There was no place for score-settling, he said, adding that trading accusations would be “costly for all”.

Diab’s government was appointed in January with backing from the powerful Hezbollah resistance movement and its allies including the Christian Maronite head of state, President Michel Aoun.

The crisis is seen as the greatest risk to stability since the 1975-90 civil war.

The local currency has lost more than half of its value since October and depositors have largely been shut out of their savings as dollars have become ever more scarce. Inflation, unemployment and poverty have soared.

Lebanon defaulted on its sovereign debt in March.

Addressing the meeting, Finance Minister Ghazi Wa-

zni said Lebanon had started negotiations to restructure its sovereign debt two weeks ago.

The benefits of going to the IMF included boosting international confidence in Lebanon and the provision of financial support of \$9 to \$10 billion for the treasury, he said.

The plan adopts a flexible exchange rate in the coming phase but in “a gradual and studied” way, Wazni said.

He said floating the exchange rate before restoring confidence and securing international support would lead to a big deterioration in the value of the pound, among other negative consequences.

Half of Migrant Workers Returning From UAE Have Covid-19: Pakistan

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) – The United Arab Emirates has been criticized by Pakistan for allowing migrant workers infected with Covid-19 to leave the country.

As many as 50 per cent have tested positive for the virus on their return from the Persian Gulf state, which had been applying pressure on Islamabad to repatriate thousands of its citizens during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Moeed Yusuf, on most flights from the UAE to Pakistan around 12 percent of the passengers are infected with Covid-19. The national security adviser to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan added that the infection rate on some of the flights was as high

as 40 to 50 percent.

Yusuf blamed the poor conditions under which foreign migrants live in the wealthy Persian Gulf state for the high rate of infection. “The hypothesis is that a lot of the laborers live in crowded dormitories where, essentially, it’s easier to infect each other,” he told Reuters.

However, UAE officials have rejected the claim that they allowed migrant workers infected with Covid-19 to board flights. “Everyone on UAE repatriation flights has been tested before departure, and those found to be infected were not allowed to travel,” insisted Assistant Undersecretary for Consular Affairs

Khalid Al-Mazrouei.

Pakistan is a major supplier of cheap labor to the UAE. More than a million Pakistanis live and work in the country, often in poor conditions that are ideal for the spread of the coronavirus.

When the UAE imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of the virus, many migrant workers sought to leave. In April, thousands were left stranded due to the lack of flights. Islamabad began to increase repatriation some weeks later, a response that seemed to have been prompted by a warning from Abu Dhabi that it would review its relations with countries that refuse to evacuate their citizens.

Rockets Hit Near Baghdad Airport

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Three Katyusha rockets have landed in the perimeter of Baghdad International Airport but caused no damage or casualties, the Iraqi military say.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Security officials said it was not immediately clear whether a military base hosting U.S. troops next to the airport was the target.

After Wednesday’s attack the military said it found a rocket launcher with a timer in a rural area in western Baghdad, and there were no reported damages or casualties.

The rockets were fired from the Bakriya neighborhood, about 6 km (4 miles) northeast of the airport, and security forces were deployed to search the area, security sources said.

Anti-U.S. sentiment has been running high in Iraq following Washington’s January 3 assassination of top Iranian anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and senior

Hashd al-Sha’abi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, in addition to several other comrades, outside the Baghdad airport.

Iraqi resistance groups have vowed to avenge the assassinations, but denied any role in such rocket attacks.

Two days after the assassinations, the Iraqi parliament voted for a resolution that called for an end to the presence of all foreign forces, including the Americans.

Washington, however, has threatened sanctions should U.S. troops be expelled from Iraq instead of ending the occupation of the Arab country.

Iraq faces the COVID-19 pandemic, a looming economic crisis and increased security threats.

Daesh has stepped up attacks this month including one that killed at least 10 Hashd al-Sha’abi forces in the northern province of Salahuddin, according to paramilitary and security statements.