

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is waging a 'systematic war' to loot Palestinian antiquities in the Palestinian territories, a Palestinian official says. Saleh Tawafsha, the director-general of the antiquities preservation department at the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, told Xinhua that looting Palestinian antiquities violates international conventions and laws. "Israel has seized or attacked hundreds of archaeological sites in Palestine since 1967, whether by destroying, controlling, or turning these sites into religious shrines for Jews," he said.

There are four principles of Faith: Reliance on God, Accepting God's supremacy, Acceptance of God's judgement and submission to God's command.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

U.S. Deploying More Troops, Logistics to Syria



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WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The U.S. is deploying more military equipment and troops to oil-rich eastern Syria as it seeks to loot crude resources in the war-torn country.

Captain Bill Urban, spokesman for the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), said in a statement on Friday that the United States "has deployed Sentinel radar, increased the frequency of U.S. fighter patrols over U.S. forces, and deployed Bradley Fighting Vehicles to augment U.S. forces" in the area.

The move comes amid increased tensions between Moscow and Washington. Without mentioning Russia, Urban said that the moves were

meant "to help ensure the safety and security" of the U.S.-led military coalition purportedly formed to fight the Daesh terrorist group without the Syrian government's consent.

Meanwhile, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) spokesman Col. Wayne Marotto said in a press release on Friday that the U.S.-led coalition plans to deploy Bradley fighting vehicles to northeast Syria.

U.S. military officials told NBC News that the deployment is aimed at projecting a show of force to discourage Russian troops from crossing into territory controlled by the coalition. The report said six Bradley fighting vehicles

and nearly 100 additional U.S. troops will be deployed to northeast Syria on a 90-day deployment.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the actions are "a clear signal to Russia and other parties" to avoid what he termed as "unprofessional, unsafe and provocative actions in northeast Syria."

Senior U.S. officials have on occasions complained about Washington's policies in Syria, arguing that the approaches of President Donald Trump's administration have stuck American troops fighting a 'forgotten war' and guarding oil and gas resources there, while Russian troops are making advances and help the Damascus government recover after nearly a decade of militancy.

Malcolm Nance, a former U.S. Navy intelligence and counter-terrorism specialist, also compared the situation to another bloody quagmire for the Pentagon, and said the presence of U.S. troops on the Syrian soil is a political game with little payoff.

"A few special forces supported by artillery and armor units are very much akin to 2002 in Afghanistan. It is now a forgotten war," Nance said.

Moreover, Russian and Syrian joint coordination committees on the repatriation of Syrian refugees have denounced the presence of U.S. troops on the Syrian soil, stating that such an illegal military deployment stokes new tensions in the Middle East.

The committees, in a statement released on September 3, cited the unlawful presence of U.S. troops and militants affiliated with the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) as one of the serious matters of concern in northeastern Syria, Syria's official news agency SANA reported at the time.

France Rejects U.S. Allegation: No Evidence of Secret Hezbollah Explosive Stores



The flags of Lebanon, Palestine, and Hezbollah are seen in south Lebanon.

PARIS (Dispatches) – France says there is no evidence to confirm the United States' claims that the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah 'has stockpiles of ammonium nitrate stashed around Europe'.

"To our knowledge, there is nothing tangible to confirm such an allegation in France today," French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll said in response to the U.S. State Department's new claim.

On Thursday, Nathan Sales, the U.S. State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, alleged that Lebanon's Hezbollah had caches of dangerous chemicals in France, Spain, Italy, and other European states. He said that the chemicals had been smuggled into the country hidden in first-aid kits, but did not provide evidence backing his incendiary accusation.

Sales made the remarks in an online forum hosted by the American Jewish Committee, which has appealed to countries in Europe and

elsewhere to impose bans on the Lebanese resistance movement.

The U.S. has designated Hezbollah resistance movement as a foreign terrorist organization since 1997, and has imposed several rounds of sanctions against the group.

The U.S. Treasury Department said in a statement on Thursday that it had imposed sanctions on Sultan Khalifah As'ad, who the Treasury described as a senior Hezbollah Executive Council official, besides Arch Consulting and Meamar Construction, two Lebanon-based, after accusing them of being linked to the Lebanese resistance movement.

On May 16, 2018, the United States and its partners in the Terrorist Financing and Targeting Center (TFTC), which includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, imposed sanctions on Hezbollah leadership, targeting its Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem.

Palestine Seeking to Prevent More Arab Normalization

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – The Palestinian leadership is acting to prevent more Arab countries from normalizing relations with the Zionist regime, a senior Palestinian official announced on Saturday.

"The normalization agreements that both the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed with Israel are based on the principle of peace for protection," said Saeb Erekat, secretary-general of Palestine

Liberation Organization Executive Committee, during his interview with official Voice of Palestine radio.

Bahrain and the UAE signed controversial and U.S.-brokered normalization agreements with the Zionist regime during a ceremony in Washington on Tuesday.

The event was slammed by many Arab and Muslim figures as a blatant betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

Erekat said that Palestine will present 19 resolutions to the UN General Assembly at its upcoming session, adding the Palestinian leadership "is expecting large international support for the Palestinian resolutions."

Protests worldwide have been staged against the formalization of ties.

As of Saturday, more than 2.5 million signatures have been gathered for the "Charter for

Palestine," a petition launched by Emirati activists in rejection of any Arab normalization with the occupying regime.

The Charter has been endorsed by many pro-Palestine organizations, including the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, the Persian Gulf Coalition Against Normalization and the Emirati League Against Normalization.

The petition had about two million signatures a day earlier.

UAE Hires 450 Mercenaries for Assassinations in Yemen: Rights Groups

ABU DHABI (MEMO) – The United Arab Emirates has hired thousands of mercenaries and deployed 450 of them in Yemen to carry out high-profile assassinations, the International Institute for Rights and Development, and the Rights Radar Foundation have revealed.

These remarks came in a statement that the rights groups read during the 45th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council held in Geneva.

"The International Institute for Rights and Development and Rights Radar Foundation are deeply concerned about the escalation of assassination cases in Yemen by the mercenaries," the statement read.

It added, "The UAE hired American mercenaries to carry out high-profile assassinations in Yemen. They conducted several operations in Aden

and several cities, resulting in the assassinations of dozens of politicians and public figures during the past five years of conflict in Yemen.

According to the statement: "Among 30,000 mercenaries from four Latin American countries hired by the UAE, at least 450 mercenaries have been deployed to Yemen after they received training by U.S. trainers."

"They take advantage of the UN's disregard for their human rights abuses in Yemen to continue their crimes with no accountability."

In the statement, the rights groups confirmed that: "Over 80 percent of Yemeni lawmakers and media professionals have been displaced locally or globally, seeking safety as they become potential targets for assassination."

The rights groups warned that "the right to life in Yemen is in extreme danger," stressing that

the situation: "Needs the UN to offer effective action not just kind words. Enough is enough."

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched the devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in order to bring former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi back to power and crush Ansarullah movement.

The U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the Saudi-led war has claimed more than 100,000 lives over the past five years. Some 24 million Yemenis, or 80 percent of the country's population, require some form of assistance or protection, according to the United Nations.

Riyadh and its allies have been widely criticized for the high civilian death toll resulted from their bombing campaign in Yemen.

Several Killed in Afghan Blasts, Shooting

MAZAR-I-SHARIF (Dispatches) – One pro-government fighter, a bomber and 15 militants, including a Taliban bomb expert were killed in Afghanistan's northern Balkh province, local sources said Saturday.

In one incident in Dihdadi district, a bomber attacked a convoy of pro-government militiamen, killing a pro-government militiaman and wounding eight others, including an anti-Taliban local leader Hashem Khan on Saturday morning, Adelshah Adel, provincial police spokesman, told Xinhua.

Hashem Khan, known as Hashem-e-Lang, had recently been leading a group of local fighters to support security forces in the fight against the Taliban in Dihdadi, said the spokesman.

"Khan and seven other wounded people were taken to a nearby hospital, and several vehicles were damaged in the explosion," Adel noted.

In a separate incident, a Taliban bomb expert and 14 other militants were killed in neighboring Dawlat Abad district when a home-made improvised

explosive device (IED) detonated accidentally Friday night, Hanif Rezai from army's Shaheen Corps 209 told Xinhua.

The expert was training the comrade militants on how to build IED before the explosion occurred, said the spokesman.

The Taliban militants, controlling parts of the province, have been using rugged terrains and mountains as hideouts, frequently launching hit-and-run attacks against security forces.

In another incident, Ayub Gharwal, the deputy head of the provincial council of Afghanistan's eastern Paktia province, was assassinated in a shooting attack on Saturday, Mumtaz Karokhel, a member of the Paktia provincial council, said.

Gharwal was approached by unidentified gunmen on Saturday morning as he was walking from his office to the university in Gardez, the capital of Paktia, Karokhel said.

The man was injured and succumbed to his injuries before reaching the hospital.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.