

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's president said on Tuesday a draft decree expanding its maritime claims in a dispute with the Zionist regime must be approved by the caretaker government, rejecting a request to grant it swift presidential approval. The dispute with the occupying regime over the maritime boundary has held up hydrocarbon exploration in a potentially gas-rich area of the eastern Mediterranean. The decree, approved by Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, defense minister and minister of public work on Monday, would add around 1,400 square km (540 square miles) to an exclusive economic zone in the eastern Mediterranean claimed by Lebanon.

He who is deserted by friends and relatives will often find help and sympathy from strangers.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Syria Launching Operation to Cleanse Raqqah From Daesh

Zionist Regime Denies Professor Prize for 'Supporting' BDS



Pro-Palestine demonstrators marching behind a banner of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in Marseille, France, on June 13, 2018.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's education minister Yoav Gallant has denied a professor of computer science the so-called Israel prize over his alleged support of the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Oded Goldreich was set to receive the prize in mathematics and computer science on Monday before it was withheld from him.

On Thursday, the regime's high court asked Gallant to justify his decision within 30 days. Goldreich, professor of computer science at Weizmann Institute of Science, denied supporting BDS, according to Haaretz.

He said that Gallant's decision is "another small step in the delegitimization of the left in Israel" and is a "political persecution".

"If I supported BDS I would not have agreed to accept the prize, I would have had to boycott it," Goldreich said. He insisted that he never supported BDS, saying that the education minister's goal was "to prevent me from receiving the prize because of my opinions because I am a leftist."

Goldreich had signed a petition, 13 years ago, that called for the boycott of Ariel University in the illegal settlement of Ariel in the occupied West Bank.

According to Haaretz, Michael Sfar, Goldreich's lawyer, said in a statement to the High Court that "withholding the prize is an attempt to determine - even by allusion - that anyone who opposes the settlement project and all assistance to it is not a part of Israeli society."

"The attorney general, together with the education minister, devised a clearly McCarthyist path to prevent awarding the Israel Prize to those with anti-occupation views," Goldreich's lawyer said.

In another development in the occupied territories, a veteran trooper with the Zionist regime's army diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder committed self-immolation outside the offices of the regime's war ministry, which apparently handles the rehabilitation of injured troops.

The ministry said in a statement that the 26-year-old man arrived at the Rehabilitation Department's offices in Petah Tikva on Monday afternoon with a bottle full of flammable liquid, doused himself with it, and then set himself on fire in the entryway.

The statement added that the ministry's guards acted to provide him with first aid, using fire extinguishers. They also called rescue services for medical assistance.

The ministry said medics classified the man as being in severe condition and suffering from intense burns, which cover his entire body.

Separately, the Veteran's Association of the Israeli army said that the man was frustrated at his treatment by authorities.

Data from the Manpower Directorate of the ministry showed earlier this year that about a third of troops who died last year had committed suicide.

Out of 28 troops who died during their compulsory career or reserve service in 2020, nine took their own lives.

Daesh Executes Two Egyptians for Collaborating With Army

NORTH SINAI (Dispatches) – Two Bedouin tribesmen from North Sinai have been executed by Daesh terrorists after being accused of collaborating with the military, in the latest series of retaliations by the group against civilian confidential informants, local sources told Middle East Eye.

Last week, MEE reported the kidnapping of 14 men from Al-Dawaghra tribe, known for its close ties with security forces in North Sinai. According to tribal sources, 12 of them were released on Thursday, while Mohamed Ibrahim Hamdan, 23, and Swilam Ahmed Swilam, 44, were killed by the terrorist group.

Both men are fish vendors in the local market in Bir al-Abd. The 12 released men were interrogated and let go with a warn-

ing not to collaborate or work for the military or the Egyptian government.

On Saturday, a video was published on a Telegram channel affiliated with Daesh, titled "The Neutralization of Two Spies for the Egyptian Army". The video shows Hamdan and Swilam confessing to their recruitment by the Egyptian armed forces as informants, before being executed by gunfire.

In the video, Swilam can be heard saying that he was a guide who worked with a military intelligence major named Gaber who instructed him to report the movements of Daesh terrorists.

Daesh does not only target informants working with the security services, but also workers, drivers and vendors who do services with the government.

Tabqa Military Airport, which serves as a joint military operations room for the forces of Syrian army and the Russians.

The sources also indicated that the campaign aims to sweep the two desert cities of Rusafa and Sufyan, as well as Jabal Al-Bishri, in conjunction with the launch of preemptive Russian and Syrian raids on the rugged Jabal Al-Bishri area.

Terrorist attacks by Daesh cells have escalated in recent months on the axes of Dayr al-Zawr, Palmyra, and Hama countryside, as well as attacking buses and tankers as they move through the area's roads, resulting in casualties among civilians and the Syrian military.

With this large-scale operation, Syrian forces intend to fully ensure the security of communication areas of Dayr al-Zawr, Raqqah and Hama provinces and to destroy any activity of Daesh terrorists in this area.

The terrorist group, along with the U.S. forces, has a large presence in the area.

group in the northern province of Raqqah.

The sources told Al-Mayadeen news network that the Syrian army is preparing to launch a large-scale operation to cleanse border area under its control with U.S.-backed Kurdish military forces known as the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The campaign aims to prevent the Daesh's cells from "launching any new attacks in the area," according to the sources, who also revealed that military reinforcements from the Russian military police, the Syrian army, and the Syrian National Defense troops have arrived at

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security services detained Awadallah and at least a dozen senior officials. Prince Hamzah was placed under house arrest.

Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister Ayman Safadi also said last week that Prince Hamza had been liaising with foreign parties over a plot to destabilize the country and had been monitored for some time.

The authorities intercepted communications between Prince Hamza and foreign parties over the timing of steps to undermine Jordan's security, Safadi said at a news conference.

Evidence showed Prince Hamza had been communicating with outside entities, the so-called Jordanian opposition, and had recorded two videos in Arabic and English in an "incitement attempt," Safadi added.

He also said the wife of Prince Hamza had also made contact with a representative of a foreign country to secure escape.

Last Wednesday, King Abdullah declared the end of the "sedition" in the Kingdom and announced that Hamzah had pledged allegiance to the monarch and to the constitution.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian army forces are preparing to launch an operation aimed at ensuring full security in the Dayr al-Zawr, Raqqah and Hama provinces and eliminate Daesh remnants in the areas.

Field sources reported that the Syrian army is launching an operation against Daesh terrorist

in contact with Prince Hamzah and there had been coordination between them for more than a year," he pointed out.

The prime minister also claimed that there had been incitement against King Abdullah II, stressing that this violated the cof of the kingdom. However, he added that the Public Prosecutor had started his investigations and that all suspects would be turned over to the prosecutor except the prince, whose case will be dealt with by the royal family.

On 3 April, the Jordanian se-

Jordan PM: Prince Coordinated Botched Coup With Ex-Official

AMMAN (Dispatches) – Jordanian Prime Minister Bisher Al-Khasawneh has revealed that Prince Hamzah bin Hussein had been in contact for more than a year with a former chief of the Royal Court regarding the recent botched coup attempt, Ammon news agency has reported.

Briefing tribal leaders about the detentions related to the attempted coup, Al-Khasawneh said that there had been suspicious movements and visits carried out by the prince.

"The former chief of the Royal Court, Bassem Awadallah, was

Palestine: Int'l Silence Encourages More Zionist Crimes

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Authority has condemned the silence of the international community towards the Zionist regime's crimes in the occupied territories, saying the inaction encourages the regime to continue crimes against Palestinians.

"Aggression by Israeli settlers and Israel's occupation army against the Palestinian people and their lands continues overtly before the eyes of the international community," said the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

The illegal settlers carry out their violations protected by the regime's army, the ministry added.

Zionist troops stand and watch as the settlers attack Palestinians and their property, stepping in only when the Palestinians react in self-defense and the settlers come under retaliatory

attack. Recently the home of Sameer Al-Saleebi and his family in Beit Amer came under attack by settlers. The Palestinian family was obliged to leave their farm after their buildings and greenhouses were damaged.

Such attacks, the ministry confirmed, are being carried out on a daily basis across the occupied West Bank and al-Quds.

All settlements are illegal under international law.

In a latest development, the so-called Jewish National Fund has approved a controversial plan that will allow it to buy Palestinian lands in the West Bank for the expansion of illegal settlements, one step away from making official a practice that has been carried out under the table for decades.

The group approved the plan on Sunday by

one vote - six in favor and five against - and still needs to pass a final approval from its board of directors on 22 April, Haaretz reported.

The new plan will allow the fund to buy lands in the Palestinian district of Jenin and Nablus, in the northern West Bank, an area surrounded by Zionist settlements.

More than 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds.

Emboldened by U.S. President Donald Trump's all-out support, the regime has stepped up its settlement construction activities in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which pronounced settlements in the West Bank and East al-Quds "a flagrant violation under international law."