



**UAE Provokes Anger After Congratulating Zionist Regime's 'Independence'**

**DUBAI (Dispatches)** – The United Arab Emirates has sparked a wave of anger across the Middle East by congratulating the Zionist regime on its so-called 'Independence Day'.

The UAE embassy in Tel Aviv published a tweet wishing a "Happy Independence Day" to Zionism in occupied lands.

The regime's occupation of Palestinian lands in 1948 was accompanied by the mass displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their land, which Palestinians today mark as the Nakba or "catastrophe".

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# Hamas: Violations Against Al-Aqsa Herald Massive Uprising



*Zionist troops restrained tens of hundreds of Palestinians on Friday from coming into the ancient Al-Aqsa Mosque in al-Quds.*

**GAZA STRIP (Dispatches)** – The Islamic resistance movement Hamas has called on the Palestinian people to march towards Al-Aqsa Mosque and stay in its squares during the blessed month of Ramadan, protect it from the ongoing aggressions by the Zionist regime, and confront its vandalism.

The movement's spokesman Abdel-Latif Al-Qanua said in a

press statement that the actions of the occupation forces, "when they stormed Al-Qibly prayer hall on Thursday night and arrested dozens of worshipers and those who were practicing the ritual retreat, followed by placing iron barriers the next day in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque to obstruct the arrival of worshipers, preventing the adhan (Islamic call to prayer)

and cutting the wires off from loudspeakers" all represent an escalation of aggression against our people, a flagrant breach of their legitimate rights, and a blatant violation of the freedom of worship."

Al-Qanua stressed that "the continuation of these racist measures, vandalism in Al-Aqsa Mosque, restrictions on our people, and the

pursuit of worshipers will result in a massive uprising against the occupier and its racist plans that target Al-Aqsa Mosque."

The Hamas official pointed out that the escalation of the occupation's practices towards the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and daily harassment of worshipers since the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan constitute a desperate attempt to impose a new reality on the ground and enforce measures targeting Al-Aqsa Mosque and the religious rituals performed by the Palestinians in it.

Meanwhile, reacting to the regime recent escalation against the Gaza Strip, another spokesman of the resistance movement said on Saturday that "Gaza still fights and doesn't break."

The remarks came after the regime conducted air strikes against the besieged enclave after an alleged rocket attack from the Palestinian side.

The occupying regime has maintained a crippling blockade of the Gaza Strip since 2007, which critics say amounts to collective punishment of the impoverished enclave's two million residents.

Egypt also upholds the siege, restricting movement in and out of Gaza on its border.

## U.S.-Backed Militants Transfer Daesh Terrorist to Syria Oil Fields



*A U.S. Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopter supports American occupation troops during a mission in the oil-rich northeastern Syria.*

**DAMASCUS (Dispatches)** – U.S.-backed Kurdish militants in Syria have recruited Daesh terrorists they released from prisons, after being transferred to eastern Dayr al-Zawr province's al-Omar oil field, sources in the field stated.

The sources told Daily Sabah that 60 Daesh terrorists were deployed in the region.

The paper said the terrorists had been released from prisons run by the People's Protection Units (YPG), a Kurdish militant group that is backed by Washington.

"Sources added that the Daesh terrorists [had] received special training and tactics by the YPG before being sent to the oil field," it added.

The daily further alleged that, "The YPG operates dozens of detention facilities scattered across northeastern Syria, holding about 10,000 Daesh terrorists."

The al-Omar oil field, which was seized by Daesh back in around 2014, is considered one of the largest fields in eastern Syria. The war-torn country's pre-war production was at 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) but fell to just around 89,000 bpd in 2020. Up to 80,000 came from areas that are currently under the control of the YPG in the east, where more than 90% of the country's

reserves are located.

Reports indicate that the YPG continues to cooperate with Daesh, while claiming to have hostile relationship with the terrorist group. Another Kurdish militant group that has been largely implicated to have cooperation with the terrorists is the one that is known as the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

Reports stating that Daesh terrorists are being released from YPG prisons and camps have been circulating in the media for a while.

Former U.S. president Donald Trump, under whose tenure the U.S.-led coalition devastatingly ratcheted up its operations in Syria, notoriously admitted to Washington's ambitions for Syria's crude once in 2019.

"We're keeping the oil," he said back then. "I've always said that. We want to keep the oil. \$45 million a month. We've secured the oil .... We'll be deciding what to do with it in the future."

Observers say the U.S.'s continued pattern of trying to expropriate Syria's oil under Trump's successor Joe Biden reflects Washington's brazen efforts to hamper the Arab country's emergence from around a decade of foreign-backed militancy and terrorism.

## Syria to Hold Presidential Elections on May 26: Parliament

**DAMASCUS (Dispatches)** – The Syrian presidential elections will be held on May 26, the Syrian parliament announced on Sunday.

Running for the elections will start on April 19, said parliament speaker, Hamoudeh Sabagh. He added that those wanting to run for the elections can submit their applications within the next 10 days.

He said that the Election Day for the Syrians abroad is set on May 20, while for the Syrians inside the country, it will be held on May 26.

"I call upon Syrians to practice their right in choosing the president of the Syrian Arab

Republic," he said.

President Assad has not yet officially announced he will stand for re-election.

He won the previous election in 2014. At the time, he was given nearly 90 percent of the vote.

Candidates must have lived continuously in Syria for at least 10 years. Candidates must also have the backing of at least 35 members of the parliament.

The poll comes amid the coronavirus pandemic and a crushing economic hardship, due to U.S.-led sanctions.

The country is facing a worsening food and electricity situation.

## Local Daesh Commander Killed in Afghanistan

**KABUL (Dispatches)** – A local Daesh commander was killed by Afghan Special Forces in the country's eastern Nangarhar province Saturday night, National Directorate of Security (NDS), the country's national intelligence agency, confirmed on Sunday.

"Acting on a confirmed tip-off, the NDS Special Operations Forces conducted an operation in Kuz Kunar district, Nangarhar province, to arrest Kamin, known as Hakimullah, one of the Daesh newly designated local leaders," the agency said on Twitter.

"A gunfight took place while the targeted man was planning to flee the area. As a result, Kamin, who served as the group's military chief for Pachir Wa Agam and Haska Mina districts of Nangarhar was killed," the statement read.

In another incident in Nangarhar province, eight members of a family were killed when unknown assailants opened fire on them at a mosque.

The shooting happened on Saturday night in the city of Jalalabad. According to Nangarhar Governor Ziualhaq Amarkhil, the killings happened apparently over a land dispute.

Five brothers and three of their male cousins were killed.

"The shooting happened at the time of the tarawih [extra prayers in the evening during Ramadan]. This was a targeted attack and initial information shows a land dispute was the reason," Amarkhil told Al Jazeera.

Clashes over land disputes are common across Afghanistan. The so-called blood feuds can last for decades, passing down through generations in a cycle



*This file photo shows the site of an explosion in Jalalabad, Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.*

of violence.

Last April, at least six tribal members were killed and nearly 20 others wounded in armed clashes over disputed land in the same province. The fighting

lasted for several days.

Nangarhar, a stronghold of the Taliban and the Daesh, is rich in plains and is one of the most important areas for agriculture in Afghanistan.

## Zionist Troops Arrest More Palestinian Electoral Candidates

**RAMALLAH (Dispatches)** – Zionist troops have continued the arresting spree of Palestinian electoral candidates, in the latest case nabbing three of them attempting to hold a news briefing in East al-Quds, Palestinian sources said.

Two of the candidates are on the list of the Fatah party led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and the third is on the list of the Palestinian Democratic Union, according to the sources.

The three candidates planned to hold a news conference to call on the international community to pressure the regime to allow the elections to be held in East al-Quds which has been occu-

ried by the regime since 1967, the sources said.

Wassel Abu Yousef, a member of the executive committee of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), told reporters that Abbas will chair a meeting for the committee in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Sunday to discuss the possibility of enabling the Palestinians in East al-Quds to participate in the elections.

"The PLO and the Palestinian leadership will never accept that the elections are only held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip without East al-Quds," he said.

In January, Palestinian President Abbas an-

nounced the 2021 general elections will include the legislative elections on May 22, the presidential elections on July 31, and the elections of the Palestinian National Council, the highest decision-making body of the PLO, on Aug. 31.

Palestinians insist that they want to hold the general elections to elect a new parliament and a new president in all Palestinian territories, including the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East al-Quds.

Palestinians in East al-Quds participated in the last presidential and legislative elections held in 2005 and 2006.