

MOSCOW (Sputnik) – Qatari Prosecutor-General has ordered to put Finance Minister Ali Shareef Al Emadi in custody for questioning on a range of charges, including embezzlement and abuse of power, the Qatari News Agency (QNA) reported on Thursday. “After reviewing the documents and accompanying reports, the Prosecutor-General ordered for Finance Minister Ali Shareef Al Emadi to be arrested and interrogated in relation to the reported crimes linked to public service, including assault of public funds and abuse of power,” the prosecutor’s office said in a statement, as quoted by the agency.

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UN: Zionist Regime Must Call Off Forced Evictions

NEW YOURK (Dispatches) – The United Nations urged the Zionist regime on Friday to call off any forced evictions in the occupied East al-Quds warning its actions could amount to “war crimes”.

“We call on Israel to immediately call off all forced evictions,” UN rights office spokesman Rupert Colville told reporters in Geneva. “We wish to emphasize that East Jerusalem (al-Quds) remains part of the occupied Palestinian territory, in which international humanitarian law applies,” Colville said. “The occupying power ... cannot confiscate private property in occupied territory.”

Transferring civilian populations into occupied territory is illegal under international law and “may amount to war crimes”, he added. Colville’s comments came after 15 Palestinians were arrested in East al-Quds overnight after protests over an eviction threat against four Palestinian families.

The second straight night of arrests in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood was fuelled by a years-long land dispute between Palestinian refugees and Zionist settlers in the strategic district near Old City. Tensions are high over a long-running legal case over the homes of four Palestinian families on land claimed by Zionists. UN Special Coordinator for the



A woman reacts as Zionist troops demolish the house of Palestinian Mohammed Cabha, in the West Bank village of Tura al-Gharbiya near Jenin, on February 10, 2021.

Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, said on Thursday he was concerned over the latest developments concerning eviction of Palestinian families.

“I urge Israel to cease demolitions and evictions, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law,” Wennesland said in a statement.

Meanwhile, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Britain urged the Zionist regime to halt settlement-building in the occupied West Bank.

In another development, Zionist troops shot and killed two young Palestinian men and seriously injured another in the northern part of

the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli police, in a statement released on Friday, alleged that the three Palestinians were armed with makeshift Carlo-style submachine guns and knives, and they opened fire on the gate of the Salem base before being shot by Zionist troops.

There were no reports of Israeli injuries in the purported incident.

Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine to the United Nations Riyad Mansour has stressed the need for the international community to reject the Zionist regime’s vicious attempts to taint criticism of its crimes across the occupied territories.

In a letter addressed to the UN secretary-general, the head of the UN Security Council and the president of the UN General Assembly, Mansour wrote that the occupying regime has been sparing no effort to demonize the rights groups which expose its crimes, Wafa news agency reported.

“The situation in Occupied Palestine continues to worsen as Israel intensifies its human rights violations and war crimes against the Palestinian people,” said Mansour.

Meanwhile, more than 180 Israeli intellectuals, authors and academics have called on the International Criminal Court (ICC)’s chief prosecutor not to accept the regime’s own findings into war crimes across the occupied territories, noting that the regime does not intend to carry out a serious investigation into the matter.

The group of Israelis suggested in a letter addressed to Fatou Bensouda that The Hague-based tribunal should instead obtain the assistance of Israeli human rights organizations to gather evidence of war crimes committed by Zionist troops.

The letter was signed by 185 people, including 10 Israel Prize recipients and 35 professors, in addition to senior reserve army officers, authors, intellectuals, activists and researchers.

Official: Saudis Plan to Hand Over Yemeni Crossing to al-Qaeda



Saudi-backed militants loyal to Yemen's former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi get into position during clashes with Yemeni armed forces and their allied fighters from Popular Committees in Ma'rib in central Yemen, on March 4, 2021.

SANA’A (Press TV) – A senior Yemeni official has warned that the Saudi-led coalition waging a devastating military campaign against the Arab country plans to hand over a strategic sea crossing in Yemen’s southern province of Abyan to al-Qaeda terrorists.

The deputy provincial governor of Abyan, Saleh al-Junaidi, warned on Thursday that foreign terrorists and extremist forces have been transferred on at least two occasions to the shores of Abyan – the last of which took place just two days ago, Yemen’s official Saba news agency reported.

Junaidi noted that the Saudi-led coalition is actually seeking to provide al-Qaeda terrorists with a safe haven off the coast of Ahwar district.

He said the terrorists have been transferred from Syria to Abyan to join the ranks of Saudi mercenaries in Yemen.

Dozens of foreign terrorists have been transferred by al-Qaeda members to border areas in the provinces of Abyan and al-Bayda, specifically to terrorist strongholds in the al-Sawma’ah and Dhi Na’im districts of Bayda, Junaidi noted.

The deputy provincial governor of Abyan then accused militants with the al-Qaeda-affiliated Salafist Islah Party of facilitating the docking and loading of unidentified ships off the coast of Abyan province on multiple occasions during the past few weeks.

Junaidi then warned against a plan to surrender the province to terrorist organizations in the wake of heavy defeats by Saudi-led coalition forces on various fronts, particularly in Yemen’s central province of Ma’rib.

He finally called on residents of the province to expose the movements of terrorist organizations in their regions,

and to stand up against establishment of new military camps as well as recruitment and training centers there.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and other regional allies, launched a bloody war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and crushing popular Ansarullah movement.

Yemeni armed forces and allied Popular Committees have, however, gone from strength to strength against the Saudi-led invaders, and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in the country.

The Saudi-led military aggression has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions of people. It has also destroyed Yemen’s infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases across the country.

UN humanitarians said on Thursday with 20 million Yemenis in need of assistance in the face of conflict and COVID-19, “the humanitarian situation is falling off a cliff.”

Of those, more than 16 million people are going hungry this year, tens of thousands of people are already living in famine-like conditions, and 5 million more are just one step away, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

Add to that are surging COVID-19 infections, with hospitals and health facilities reportedly turning away patients due to lacking treatment resources.

Further complicating the situation, the rain season is underway, with more than 22,000 people affected by floods. Most of those victims are displaced people living in inadequate shelters.

Syria: Zionist Regime’s Copter Attacks Quneitra

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime carried out air strikes overnight in the southern Syrian province of Quneitra, Syrian state media and a UK-based activist group said Thursday, though there were no reports of casualties.

The strikes came a day after Syria said one civilian was killed and six others injured during similar attacks in the northwestern region of Latakia.

Syria’s state news agency SANA said there had been “an Israeli attack led by a helicopter in one of Quneitra’s zones” not far from the occupied territories.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported there had been “Israeli strikes”.

The Observatory, which relies on a network of sources on the ground, said the strikes targeted the Syrian Army’s 90th Brigade and military positions in north Quneitra, near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The occupying regime, which rarely confirms such strikes, has escalated in recent months its offensives inside Syria.

Syria’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Bas-

sam Sabbagh says the regime’s repeated attacks against his country’s territory, sovereignty and independence threaten regional stability as well as international peace and security.

Sabbagh, in two identical letters addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, and rotating President of the UN Security Council Zhang Jun on Thursday, stated that the Zionist regime’s military has committed new attacks against Syrian lands.

Sabbagh said the two assaults are in flagrant violation of the

international law, the UN Charter, Security Council Resolution 350 (1974) and the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between the occupying regime and Syria.

The Syrian envoy pointed out that the regime authorities enjoy full protection offered by certain permanent member states of the Security Council, which encourages the regime to press ahead with its aggression, occupation and incessant violations of the international law, and which poses a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

Egypt, Turkey Say Hold ‘Frank’ Talks, First Since 2013

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – Egypt and Turkey said they had held “frank” discussions during the first official diplomatic talks between the regional rivals for eight years, a joint statement said.

“The discussions were frank and in-depth,” the statement released by Cairo and Ankara said on Thursday. “They addressed bilateral issues as well as a number of regional issues, in particular the situation in Libya, Syria, Iraq, and the need to achieve peace and security in the Eastern Mediterranean region,” it added.

A Turkish delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal, met on Wednesday and Thursday in Cairo with an Egyptian team led by

his counterpart, Hamdi Loza.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan have been sparring since the military’s 2013 deposing of President Mohamed Morsi, personally backed by Erdogan.

Erdogan said on March 12 that the two countries have held “intelligence, diplomatic and economic” contacts, adding that he hoped for “strong” ties between the two nations.

A week after Erdogan’s remarks, his government asked three Istanbul-based Egyptian TV channels, linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, to soften their critical political coverage of the Egyptian government. The TV channels immediately stopped broadcast-

ing some political programs.

Egypt welcomed the move, calling it a “good initiative from the Turkish side that establishes a favorable atmosphere to discuss issues of dispute between the two nations”.

The two countries have also been on opposite sides of the conflict in oil-rich Libya, which descended into chaos in the aftermath of the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that overthrew ruler Muammar Gaddafi.

According to two Egyptian intelligence sources, Turkey is ready to hold a tripartite meeting between Turkish, Egyptian and Libyan officials to agree on disputed issues in Libya, including the presence of foreign militants.

Rights Groups Slam UAE Official’s Interpol President Candidacy

DBUBAI (Al Jazeera) – The candidacy of a United Arab Emirates official for president of Interpol could jeopardize the credibility of the global police organization’s commitment to human rights, Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Persian Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR) have said.

Ahmed al-Raisi has been the inspector general at the UAE Interior Ministry since April 2015 and is a member of Interpol’s executive committee.

“General al-Raisi’s selection as Interpol president would indicate that Interpol’s member states have no concern whatsoever about the record of the UAE

in persecuting peaceful critics,” GCHR executive director Khalid Ibrahim said in a joint statement with HRW.

“His candidacy is yet another bid by the UAE to purchase international respectability and whitewash its deplorable human rights record,” he added.

Joe Stork, deputy Middle East director at HRW, said choosing a top official of an “abusive state institution as its president, Interpol risks jeopardizing its credibility as a rights-respecting international law enforcement agency”.

Al-Raisi was accused last year of being responsible for the torture of a British academic and a

football fan.

Matthew Hedges, a British postgraduate student, said he was fed a cocktail of drugs during his imprisonment in Dubai on spying charges in 2018.

He spent nearly seven months in a detention center – mostly in solitary confinement – in the UAE after being arrested during a research trip on suspicion of being a spy for a British intelligence agency.

Al-Raisi is in charge of organizing and managing the security and police forces in the UAE, and “was ultimately responsible for my torture and detention”, Hedges said.