Army Signs Deal to Get 1,000 Drones

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Defense Ministry of Iran is going o furnish the Army with 1,000 military drones soon.

The Iranian Defense Ministry and the Army on Monday signed a "strategic agreement" on the promotion of drone power and the equipment carried by the unmanned military aircraft. Under phase one of the agreement, the Defense Ministry has undertaken to equip the Army with 1,000 drones in a short time span. Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi highlighted the growing power of drones used by Army units, saying the UAVs have increasingly been employed in war games for various purposes.



TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said Monday the presence of U.S. forces in Iraq will not help restore stability and security to the country. Rouhani made the remarks in a phone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. The president questioned the U.S. military presence in Iraq, saying Washington is playing a dubious game in its so-called fight against terrorism, and described U.S. activities on the Iraqi-Syrian border as "ambiguous." Americans, he said, have always played a destructive role in the regain and their presence in Iraq will not contribute to stability and security in the country.

Rouhani, Iraqi PM Hold Phone Talks

VOL NO: LV 11428 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, Ordibehsht 28, 1400, Shawwal 6, 1442, Price 50,000 Rials











Nujaba Spokesman: Iraqi Fighters Ready to Help Palestinian Resistance

TEHRAN (Dispatches) --Iraq's Al-Nujaba resistance movement has reiterated its readiness to provide the Palestinians with military support and to even engage in the fight against the occupying regime of Israel, noting that its weapons can hit targets deep in the occupied territories.

Speaking in an interview with Iran's Mehr news agency, Nasr al-Shammari, the official spokesman of the al-Nujaba, reiterated his movement's firm position on supporting the Palestinian people with all possible means.

"We in the Islamic resistance of Iraq won't spare any effort ... to support our brothers in the Palestinian resistance and our people in dear Palestine; this is our legitimate and moral duty," he said in remarks published Monday.

"We are ready to support the Palestinians resistance with

weapons and expertise and even direct participation in the fight against that deformed entity," Shammari said.

"We have expertise and weapons that can reach the depth of that usurper entity."

Over the past weeks, tensions have escalated in Jerusalem Al-Quds amid acts of aggression by Zionist troops and settlers, and the planned expulsion of dozens of Palestinians from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in the occupied East Al-Quds, where illegal Israeli settlers seek to take over the properties of Palestinian families.

Palestinian resistance fighters have launched thousands of rockets into the occupied territories in retaliation for Israeli violations in Jerusalem Al-Quds and its bombardment of the Gaza Strip, which have left about 200 Palestinians dead since May 10.

Resistance Hits Zionist Battleship Off Gaza



The Sa'ar-6-class corvette officially handed over to the occupying regime of Israel on November 11, 2020 is seen in an undated photograph.

Islamic Jihad, Hamas Hail Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says all Muslims across the world are duty-bound to support the Palestinian people in the face of the occupying regime of Israel's barbaric attacks, reiterating the Islamic Republic's support for Palestine.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled its duties in the past and will continue this path to give its all-out support under the leadership" Ayatollah Khamenei, Ali Akbar Velayati said in a phone call with Islamic Jihad head Ziyad al-Nakhalah. Velavati, who is also secretary general of the World Assembly of Islamic Awakening, condemned the Zionist regime's brutal attacks on the Palestinian people, saying that the divine promise on the liberation of all Palestinian occupied lands and Jerusalem Al-Quds will finally come true. The occupying regime has been relentlessly bombarding the besieged Gaza Strip for the past seven days.

web," the senior Iranian official said.

Velayati expressed optimism about the future and said the world would one day witness the liberation of the Palestinian land and the return of the oppressed Palestinian people to their homes.

Nakhalah, for his part, hailed Ayatollah Khamenei's brave and unique stance on the Palestinian issue and said no other country but Iran has adopted GAZA (Dispatches) -- Palestinian resistance fighters on Monday targeted an Israeli military vessel off the coast of the Gaza Strip as the occupying regime continued its bombardment of the besieged enclave at the start of the second week despite growing international outcry.

The Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Hamas resistance movement, announced in a statement that a Zionist battleship was hit off the coast of the Gaza Strip with a barrage of missiles.

The statement said the missile attack came after the Zionist military launched fresh series of air raids on for the killing of children at the hands of terrorists, who deprived Palestinians of the happiness of Eid al-Fitr, and attacked holy sites during the holy month of Ramadan". Israeli air raids against civilian facilities and residential buildings, it said, are a "clear proof of the systematic terrorism by the Israeli enemy".

The Islamic Jihad also decried Washington's stance on the Israeli acts of aggression against Palestinians, saying it "has provided a cover-up for Israel's atrocities and violations, and made the United States complicit in the regime's hostilities".

Meanwhile, Hamas warned on Monday that it will resume missile attacks on Tel Aviv if the Zionist regime continues its airstrikes against residential areas of Gaza. The warning was announced by Hamas spokesman Abu Ubeida after Israeli warplanes targeted a residential tower in Gaza City, martyring two Palestinians and injuring 10 others. Tensions escalated in Jerusalem Al-Quds, the occupied West Bank and Gaza amid the planned misappropriation of dozens of Palestinian homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. At least 200 people, including 59 children, have been martyred in the Gaza Strip since the latest bout of Israeli violence began a week ago. More than 1,300 Palestinians have also been wounded.

building in the city of Ashdod that caused injuries, the Israeli police said.

Violence by Zionist settlers against Arabs inside Occupied Palestine have also left scores of people injured.

Gaza City's mayor, Yahya Sarraj, said that the strikes had caused extensive damage to roads and other infrastructure. He said water supplies to hundreds of households in the city were disrupted. "We are trying hard to provide water, but the situation remains difficult," he said.

The UN has warned that the territory's sole power station is at risk of running out of fuel. Gaza already experiences daily power outages for between eight and 12 hours, and tap water is undrinkable. Muhammad Thabet, a spokesman for the territory's electricity distribution company, said it has fuel to supply Gaza with electricity for two or three days. Medical workers and health organizations decried the killing of two senior doctors - a neurologist and the head of internal medicine at Gaza's largest hospital - in Israeli attacks on the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Wehda district of Gaza on Sunday. The bombing martyred at least 33 civilians and left rescuers sifting through the rubble of apartment buildings to find survivors.

Dr Mooein Ahmad al-Aloul, a 66-year-old psychiatric neurologist, was also martyred in his home during the Al-Wehda attacks early Sunday, his brother Mazen al-Aloul told Al Jazeera.

The UN Security Council met on Sunday to discuss the violence but failed to agree on even a joint statement of concern. China said it was the United States that obstructed the council from speaking "with one voice".

"Regrettably, simply because of the obstruction of one country, the Security Council hasn't been able to speak with one voice," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during the virtual meeting. "We call upon the United States to shoulder its due responsibilities of taking a just position."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken signaled Monday Washington still was not joining calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Blinken's stand comes despite growing pressure from the United States' UN Security Council partners, some Democrats and others for President Joe Biden's administration and other international leaders to end the Israeli atrocities.

Blinken's comments came after UN Security Council diplomats and Muslim foreign ministers convened emergency weekend meetings to demand a stop to civilian bloodshed, as Israeli warplanes carried out the deadliest single attacks Sunday.

Velayati added that the Iranian nation and all those who support Palestine throughout the world are witnessing the Palestinians' bravery and Israel's shattering false grandeur.

"The Palestinian fighters and people once again proved that the Zionist regime is a spider such a position.

He said the Palestinian people have succeeded in achieving great victories, resisting the Israeli regime and thwarting a Zionist-American plot.

Separately, Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh offered his warm gratitude to Iran, saying the Islamic Republic is one of the front-runners in championing the cause of Palestine and Jerusalem Al-Quds.

"Through your Excellency, I would like to send my regards to the Leader and the people of Iran and emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the leading countries in supporting the cause of Palestine and Holy al-Quds," he said in a phone call with Velayati.

Haniyeh pointed out that an extensive battle is ongoing for the liberation of Al-Quds and said resistance is a symbol of (Continued on Page 7) the Gaza Strip early on Monday.

The Al-Qassam Brigades said it had renewed shelling Erez kibbutz in the southwestern part of the occupied territories, which lies just one kilometer north of the Gaza Strip, and Hatzerim airbase on the western outskirts of of Beersheba. The Islamic Jihad resistance movement said the ongoing battle in the face of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip has achieved "major goals," emphasizing that the Palestinian resistance front "insists on achieving victory for Al-Quds".

On Sunday U.S.-made Israeli F-35 warplanes pounded the Gaza Strip whilst horrified civilians were sleeping in their homes.

The Islamic Jihad said the strikes were conducted after Palestinian resistance fighters inflicted heavy losses on the occupied lands which took Israeli officials off guard.

The Palestinian resistance movement went on to say that Operation Al-Quds' Sword "will take revenge Ten Zionists, including a military officer, have been killed in the ongoing retaliatory rocket attacks launched from Gaza.

Retaliatory rocket attacks continued Monday, with one hitting a Their deaths further exacerbate a medical staff and expertise shortage in the Gaza Strip, the result of a 14-year-long blockade that prevents freedom of movement, causes dire supply and equipment shortages and hinders medical advancement.

Dr Ayman Abu al-Ouf, head of internal medicine at Al-Shifa hospital, was martyred along with members of his family in an early morning missile attack in the Al-

Seven Zionist Officers Injured in Car-Ramming

Zionist shot dead a Palestinian in Sheikh Jarrah after a car-ramming attack in the flashpoint Jerusalem Al-Quds neighborhood.

Israeli authorities said that seven military officers were wounded when a Palestinian rammed his car into a temporary police checkpoint on Nablus Road in Sheikh Jarrah on Sunday.

A hospital spokesperson said one of the wounded Israeli officers was being treated for gunshot injuries, apparently after being shot in a friendly fire during the Sunday incident.

But police later dismissed the report, citing medical staff as saying that the soldier was not injured by gunfire.

A video of the attack showed a (Continued on Page 7)