

Zionist Troops Demolish 18 Palestinian-Owned Structures

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s army, on Monday, demolished 18 Palestinian-owned structures north of occupied east Al-Quds, Anadolu News Agency reported.

Speaking to Anadolu, Abdullah Salaheddin, the director of the Hizma Municipality, said that without any prior notice, the Zionist regime’s army demolished the structures, which include stores and car maintenance workshops.

He added that the regime authorities claimed that the demolition was carried out to expand the road where the structures exist.

Salaheddin also said that more than 100 Palestinian families are affected by the demolitions.

The occupying regime routinely destroys Palestinian homes and structures under the pretext that they lack construction permits which are next to impossible to obtain.

Demolishing Palestinian structures as collective punishment is another extreme measure that the regime has employed against the Palestinians.



An Israeli excavator demolishes 2-storey building, belonging to Palestinians

Punitive house demolitions have become a regular practice since 1967 after the regime extended its occupation to the West Bank and East Al-Quds.

By definition, this is intended to harm people who have done nothing illegal and are not suspected of any wrongdoing; they just happen to be related to someone who has, in most cases allegedly, attacked or attempted

to attack Zionists.

Despite international outcry over the illegal practice, the Zionist regime keep on pressing ahead with the harsh policies to date.

Palestinians say the regime’s demolition drive is aimed at making room for illegal settlements in the West Bank.

The regime has stepped up its illegal settlement construction activities

in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which pronounces settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Al-Quds “a flagrant violation under international law.”

More than 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 settlements built since 1967. All settlements are illegal under international law. The UN Security Council has condemned the regime’s settlement activities in the occupied territories in several resolutions.

Meanwhile, the official Wafa news agency reported that at least 15 Palestinians were detained by the Zionist troops from several areas in the occupied West Bank.

Three Palestinians, including one child, were injured in Jenin and Bethlehem during the Zionist troops’ raids, according to the news agency.

The regime’s army frequently carries out wide-ranging arrest campaigns across the occupied West Bank and East Al-Quds on the pretext of searching for “wanted” Palestinians.

Divisions...

(Continued From Page One)

attacks, dozens of Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have been arrested.

The United Nations has marked 2022 as the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank in 16 years.

Israeli forces martyred at least 171 Palestinians in the West Bank and occupied East Al-Quds last year, including more than 30 children. At least 9,000 others were injured as well.

Qin said, “China’s President Xi Jinping has recently stressed that the historic oppression the Palestinian people are subjected to should not continue indefinitely and that the Palestinians’ legitimate, national rights should not be compromised.”

He also urged the international community to find a “just and urgent solution” to the Palestinian cause.

Europe...

(Continued From Page One)

A fearful silence hangs over the Neiges district hard by the port where many of the dockers traditionally live.

The dockers’ union is no more talkative. With members told to keep their mouths shut, the CGT refuses to discuss publicly the bad apples who have been purged from its ranks.

“Everybody is worried on the port,” said Alain Le Maire, of the customs officers’ union. “The traffickers are watching us with their binoculars or their drones. Now when we check a container, we are guarded by colleagues armed with assault rifles.”

Since the “electric shock” of the Affagard murder, security has been further tightened.

“Safety and security are some of our main priorities,” port chiefs said. More guards have been hired, the security badge system toughened and more than a million euros are being spent on new CCTV cameras.

But the flow of drugs has not been stemmed, with more than 8.5 tonnes of “coke” seized in 2022, according to a police officer.

“Progress has been made, but we cannot lie, the port is still a sieve,” admitted a customs official, who asked to remain anonymous.

“All the cameras in the world won’t make a huge difference against determined traffickers.”

“The dockers are less complicit. They have understood that they are playing with something that is stronger than them,” a police officer said.

“But the pressure is still huge. If we are not careful, we could slip into what has happened in Antwerp and Rotterdam,” North Sea mega ports through which most of Europe’s cocaine is smuggled.

It is a frightening prospect. In the Netherlands, the Dutch-Moroccan “Mocro mafia” -- a key cog in the trade -- have been accused of assassinating an investigative journalist and a lawyer, with Belgium’s justice minister the target of a kidnap plot.

“Things could get bad here too,” Le Havre prosecutor Bruno Dieudonne admitted.

“We are not yet at the stage of attacks with assault weapons like in Antwerp, but the danger is not far off.”

German ...

(Continued From Page One)

The pressure to find a successor is mounting also because U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin is expected in Berlin on Thursday and will attend a conference on Friday at the U.S. military base in Ramstein, in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, to discuss further support for Ukraine, including whether to send German-built battle tanks.

Lambrech asked Scholz to dismiss her, as formally required, and he has approved, a spokesperson for the Social Democratic (SPD)-led coalition government said.

Lambrech was blamed by critics for failing to get the German armed forces, known as the Bundeswehr, back in shape quickly, despite a 100-billion-euro (\$108.11 bil-

lion) special fund being agreed for that purpose after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Lambrech was most recently criticized by media and opposition figures for posting a New Year’s message on social media in which she thanked servicemen and women, but struggled to be heard against background noise from firecrackers and seemingly mixed up the war in Ukraine with pleasant personal encounters.

“What kind of a year was 2022? It confronted us with many incredible challenges. There is a war raging in the middle of Europe. Associated with this were for me many special impressions, many encounters with interesting, great people,” Lambrecht said in the video.

MP...

(Continued From Page 2)

The “key spy,” according to the ministry, had sent the acquired information from sensitive centers to the enemy’s spy service on several occasions while being “completely aware” of his actions.

The United Kingdom has a long history of spying activities in Iran which can be traced back to the 1953 coup against the democratically-elected government of Muhammad Mosaddeq.

Iranian intelligence forces have arrested many foreign-linked spies in the past years who had been involved in acts of sabotage against Iranian people and facilities in the past decades.

The British government was also actively involved in the instigation of the recent foreign-backed riots in Iran after the death of a young woman of Kurdish descent.

Drones...

(Continued From Page 2)

Iran has manufactured and operated military drones since the Iran-Iraq War in the mid-1980s. With over thirty-three models, Iran’s highly developed, sophisticated military drone complex comprises one of the four pillars of its security strategy and force structure, complementing its missile technology and cyberwarfare, the publication said.

“Drones have increasingly offered an asymmetric advantage to Iran, with the understanding that it cannot compete with more modern air forces in the region— even as it attempts to acquire Su-35 fighter jets from Russia in exchange for drones, missiles, and other military assistance. Iranian drones are cheaper than their Western counterparts and have proven to be effective on the battlefield, whether against domestic and regional insurgents or American and allied assets in and around the Persian Gulf,” it said.

“Drones have also enabled Iran to project power and earn profits, showcase technology and enhance prestige, strengthen alliances, and influence conflicts in the Middle East and beyond.”

In May 2022, Iranian Maj. Gen. Muhammad Baqeri held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new Iranian drone factory in Tajikistan, its first offshore drone production facility. On October 18, Maj. Gen. Yahya Safava, a top military aide to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said that twenty-two countries wanted to purchase Iranian drones.

So far, the National Interest said, Iran has refrained from delivering to Russia longer-range and more lethal drones and missiles, like the Arash-2 suicide drone and the Fateh-110 and Zolfaghar short-range ballistic missile (SRBM). In doing so, Tehran seeks to avoid being subjected to snap-back sanctions under UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 2231 until a key provision expires in October 2023, it said.

Meanwhile, in the port city of Bandar Abbas, the IRGC Navy has contracted the Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex to convert the Shahid Mahdavi container ship into a drone aircraft carrier, the magazine said.

According to the publication, Iran’s high human capital could allow it to accelerate localized production of drone components.

Such an outcome could be made possible by the first-rate scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians produced by the Sharif University of Technology and other top-notch Iranian educational institutions, it added.

Yemeni PM: Saudis Control Yemen’s Oil Fields, Natural Reserves

SANA’A (Dispatches) – Yemen’s prime minister says Saudi forces and their allied militants are in control of oil fields and natural reserves in Yemen and are fully liable for the ongoing miseries in the war-ravaged Arab country.

Abdulaziz bin Habtoor said that the Sana’a-based government only receives 7% of the overall natural resources revenues, Yemen’s Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported.

He said Yemeni officials have “implemented reforms in order to fight corruption,” adding that the High Anti-Corruption Commission has worked well in this regard despite considerable ef-

forts by the Riyadh regime and its allies to shut down Yemeni institutions and organizations.

Back on July 2 last year, Habtoor said Washington was aggressively seeking to establish control over energy reserves and ports in Yemen’s eastern provinces of Hadhramaut and al-Mahrah and loot them.

The Yemeni prime minister also strongly condemned a visit at the time by the U.S. ambassador to the country’s energy-rich eastern provinces, saying that Steven Fagin’s trip fell within the framework of the U.S. attempt to dominate Yemen’s oil wells and ports.

Meanwhile, Mahdi al-Mashat,

the head of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council, hailed Oman’s efforts to advance the peace process in Yemen.

He made the marks during a meeting with the chairperson of the Sana’a-based General People’s Congress, Sadeq Rass, Sadeq Amin Abu Rass.

Last week, a delegation from Oman arrived in Yemen to negotiate with the authorities in Sana’a government.

The Omani delegates made proposals in the meeting with the Yemeni authorities in order to extend the United Nations-brokered ceasefire in Yemen, and also held consultations to establish comprehensive peace.

Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with its Arab allies and with arms and logistics support from the U.S. and other Western states, launched the devastating war on Yemen in March 2015.

The objective was to crush the popular Ansarullah resistance movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of a functional government in Yemen, and reinstall the Riyadh-friendly regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi.

While the Saudi-led coalition has failed to achieve any of its objectives, the war has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and spawned the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

After Admitting to Killing 25 People

Afghan Families Call for Prince Harry to Be Put on Trial

HELMAND/KABUL (Anadolu) – Afghan families have called for Prince Harry to be put on trial after he admitted to killing 25 people during his time fighting in Afghanistan for the UK military.

In his book of memoirs, titled Spare, Harry, the duke of Sussex, revealed that he killed 25 people as an Apache helicopter pilot in Afghanistan. He said that he did not think of them as “people,” but instead as “chess pieces” that had been taken off the board.

The prince’s comments drew sharp criticism from people in Afghanistan.

Families who lost their loved ones in the airstrikes in the Sangin district of Helmand province said that those people were not militants or terrorists, they were ordinary Afghans.

Hamdullah Alizai, 45, a resident of the Sangin district, said that in August 2008, the British Air Force carried out attacks on their settlements, killing 27 people including his father and 15-year-old brother.

“We were devastated then and we had hard days. We strongly condemn Prince Harry’s statements. We demand that he be put on trial and punished,” Alizay stressed.

Mohammed Alizai, 38, another resident, said he lost his then-23-year-old newly engaged brother in the attacks.

He recalled that they had to bury some bodies in different villages for fear of bombardment.

Habibul Rahman Noorzai, 38, whose father, uncle and 20-year-old brother were killed in the attacks, said: “British and foreign soldiers committed many atrocities here. We want them to be brought to justice.”

Harry – who served in Afghanistan first as a forward air controller in air raids from 2007-2008, then flying the attack helicopter between 2012-2013 – carried out his military duty at the British base Camp Bastion in the Helmand province of the country.

Police Question Lebanese Relatives of 2020 Blast Victims

BEIRUT (AP) – Several relatives of the victims of the massive 2020 explosion at Beirut’s port showed up on Monday to answer questions by police after they were accused of rioting and vandalism during protests over the stalled investigation into the blast.

The rioting last week saw the relatives hurl rocks at the Beirut Justice Palace and burn tires outside the building.

The Aug. 4, 2020 explosion killed more than 215 people, injured 6,000 and devastated entire neighborhoods of the Lebanese capital after hundreds of tons of highly explosive ammonium nitrate, a chemical used in fertilizers, detonated in a port warehouse.

It later emerged the chemical was shipped to Lebanon in 2013 and stored improperly at the warehouse. A handful of senior political and security officials knew of its presence and the threat it imposed on the city but failed to take action to remove it.

Judge Tarek Bitar’s investigation into the disaster has been frozen since December 2021 after politicians he had charged in the case filed legal challenges to the probe. No one has been tried or convicted over the blast.

The families of the port blast victims have long campaigned for an uninterrupted investigation and have frequently protested and held monthly vigils. Some of the fami-

lies and Lebanese activists, as well as human rights organizations have urged the United Nations to investigate the blast.

On Monday, 13 relatives of blast victims showed up to answer police summons over the rioting. As they were being questioned inside the police compound, hundreds of other relatives of the blast victims, activists, and some lawmakers protested outside and condemned the country’s ruling elite.

William Noun, who lost his brother firefighter Joe in the blast, has been an outspoken activist.

Some reformist lawmakers backing Bitar’s investigation and victims’ families were also at the protest.