

GAZA (Anadolu) – Palestinian resistance group Hamas on Saturday condemned a German ban on activities marking the Nakba Day, which marks the creation of the Zionist regime in historical Palestine. Observed on May 15 annually, the Nakba Day, or the Catastrophe Day, marks the 1948 forced expulsion of nearly 800,000 Palestinians from their homes in historical Palestine. “The events were banned under false pretexts, in a move that represents a confiscation of the people’s right to commemorate forced displacement from their villages and cities,” Hamas spokesman Abdel Latif al-Qanoua said in a statement.

A conceited and self-admiring person is disliked by others; charity and alms are the best remedy for ailments and calamities; one has to account in the next world for the deeds that he has done in this world.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

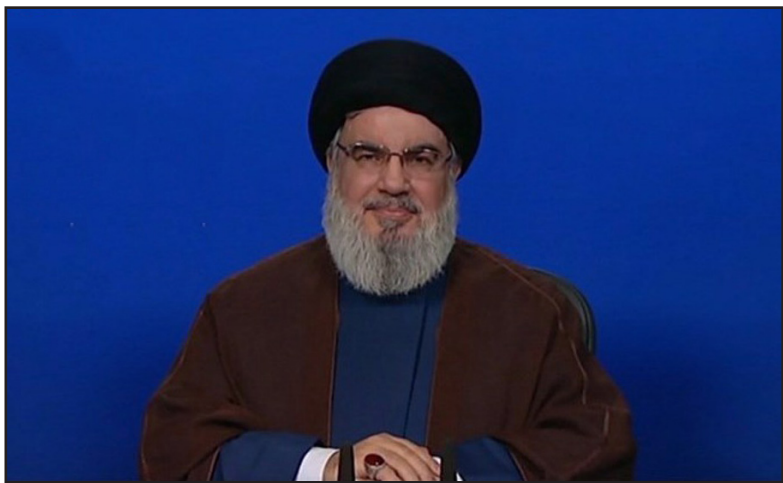
Nasrallah: Compromisers With Zionists Should Be Ashamed of Martyred Journalist

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The secretary-general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has strongly condemned the brutal murder of veteran Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by Zionist troops in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, saying those who seek normalization of ties with the occupying regime should be ashamed of this heinous crime.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks in a televised speech broadcast live from the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon on Friday, following the funeral of the veteran Al Jazeera journalist, who was shot in the head while covering the Zionist troops’ raids in Jenin.

“Shireen Abu Akleh had for years been a witness to Israeli crimes against Palestinian people,” Nasrallah told the audience. “The first to be ashamed by this crime are all those who call for normalization of ties with the Zionist regime. The first to feel shame and disgrace are the compromisers; those who try to convince the nations that the existence of ‘Israel’ is natural and should be coexisted with.”

The Hezbollah chief said the powerful message behind Abu Akleh’s martyrdom is that she was a Chris-



The secretary-general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, speaks in a televised speech broadcast live from the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, May 13, 2022.

tian, and the Zionist regime does not distinguish between a Muslim and a Christian in Palestine.

“The message of the martyrdom of Abu Akleh was that everyone is in danger of the policies of the racist and inhuman regime.”

Thousands of Muslim and Christian Palestinians from Al-Quds and from across the occupied territories, including many colleagues and fellow journalists, came to pay their respects to the veteran journalist in her funeral on Friday.

Addressing the Bekaa people participating in the event, Nasrallah said, “Bekaa and its people have always been an essential element of the resistance in terms of military presence on the field, and support.” The most important confrontation took place in 1982, he said, which stopped the advance of the Israeli enemy.

Nasrallah said the regime wants the people of Bekaa to abandon resistance and its weapons through political, financial and media bom-

bardment.

“You are Hezbollah and you are the resistance,” he told the people of Bekaa. “There are those who plot against your sacrifices and your victories, and your answer should be at that level and fitting as well.”

Touching on the issue of Lebanon’s upcoming parliamentary elections, the secretary-general of Hezbollah said, “There is a need for a just and capable government in order to address and solve regional problems.”

“In every place that we took on a role with strength, we were able to provide more service to people,” Nasrallah said. “We are among those who do not take money from a ministry but spend money on it if we assume the responsibility of that ministry.”

Nasrallah accused Washington of facilitating smuggling of the money of Lebanese depositors out of the country, saying the disappearance of \$11 billion and wrong economic policies led to the current crisis in Lebanon.

The Hezbollah chief concluded his speech by saying, “The vote on election day is a message to all those conspiring against the resistance, its weapons, and the future of the Lebanese.”

Syria Condemns U.S. for Allowing Foreign Investment in Occupied North

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syria has condemned the U.S.’ move to allow foreign investment in the Arab country’s northern areas that are under the control of militants from the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

On Thursday, the U.S. Treasury Department approved activities in 12 sectors including agriculture, construction, and finance, in northern Syria but made clear that it did not permit any transactions with the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad or those designated under the so-called Caesar Act.

In a statement, the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates said, “The U.S. Treasury Department’s approval of economic activities in the northeastern and northwestern flanks of Syria is no surprise to the Damascus government, as successive U.S. admin-

istrations are responsible for the devastating war which Syria has gone through for more than a decade.”

The ministry said Washington’s financial aids to terrorist groups have wreaked havoc across the northern Syria and ruined the Arab country’s economic prospects.

Such aids also resulted in the plunder of Syria’s crude oil reserves, foodstuff and historical monuments, destruction of its economic infrastructure and murders of many innocent citizens who refused to collaborate with American and Western schemes, it added.

The latest U.S.’ plan “is in continuation of Washington’s destructive approach towards our country, and runs contrary to its international commitments concerning fight against terrorism, and respect to Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity,” the ministry noted.

“The breakup of Syria was a U.S. and Western scenario, which dismally failed in the face of the steadfastness of the Syrian army, nation and government,” the ministry pointed out.

The statement concluded by emphasizing that the Damascus government is determined to employ all available means in order to thwart the new conspiracy, calling on local residents in northern Syria to join forces.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials stressed that Washington’s move should not be seen as helpful to efforts by some countries for Syria’s return to the Arab fold. They reiterated that Washington had no intention of lifting sanctions on the Damascus government.

Amid smoldering public resentment over the presence of American occupation troops in northeastern Syria, local residents of

several neighboring villages in the oil-rich province of Hasakah have joined forces with government troops to block a U.S. military convoy attempting to pass through the community.

Syria’s official news agency SANA reported that a U.S. convoy of five armored vehicles was forced to turn around and head back in the direction it came from on Friday afternoon after locals of the villages of Salehiyah Harb, Misherfah and Tal Dhahab as well as Syrian troops blocked the road and prevented its movement.

The U.S. military has stationed forces and equipment in northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists. Damascus says the deployment is meant to plunder the country’s resources.

Saudi Regime Executes Two Shia Youths Over Trumped-Up Allegations



Saudi Shia youth Mohammad Khedr al-Awami from Qatif region in the kingdom’s oil-rich and Shia-populated Eastern Province was executed by Saudi authorities on May 14, 2022.

RIYADH (Dispatches) – As part of a heavy-handed crackdown led by Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman against political dissidents and pro-democracy campaigners, Saudi authorities have executed two young men from the Shia-populated Qatif region over trumped-up allegations of involvement in terrorist activities.

The Saudi Ministry of Interior alleged in a statement on Saturday that the death sentences were carried out against Hussein Ali Al Abu-Abdullah and Mohammad Khedr al-Awami.

The ministry further claimed that the Saudi nationals “collaborated with terrorist groups, fomented unrest and insecurity in the country, possessed weapons, ammunition as well as rocket-propelled grenades and attempted to disrupt national security.”

Last month, two human rights organizations filed a complaint at the United Nations against arbitrary executions in Saudi Arabia, especially after the execution of dozens of prisoners in a single day in the ultra-conservative kingdom.

The European Saudi Organization for Human Rights (ESOHR) and Reprieve, a UK-based non-profit organization of international lawyers and investigators, said the Riyadh regime openly declared its disregard for international principles as well as its commitments and obligations through the executions of 81 men, 41 of whom were Shia Muslims, in

March.

The organizations stressed that special rapporteurs have pointed to various counts of violations, including torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary detention, in their reports, and informed the Saudi government in several letters about their occurrence.

They highlighted that the executions of anti-regime demonstrators and minors show that Saudi Arabia, contrary to official promises, continues to arbitrarily carry out death sentences.

State news agency Saudi Press Agency said on March 12 that the authorities had executed 81 people in one day on a variety of offences.

The 2022 executions exceeded the total number of Saudi Arabia’s punishments by death throughout last year.

Since 2015, Saudi Arabia has reportedly executed more than 900 prisoners in an increasing rate. In 2019 alone, Saudi Arabia set a record number of executions after authorities executed 184 people, despite a general decrease in the number of executions around the world.

Ever since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman became Saudi Arabia’s de facto leader in 2017, the kingdom has arrested dozens of activists, bloggers, intellectuals and others perceived as political opponents, showing almost zero tolerance for dissent even in the face of international condemnations of the crackdown.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Elected UAE President

ABU DHABI (AFP) – The UAE’s long-time de facto ruler Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was elected as president on Saturday, official media said, a day after the death of former leader Sheikh Khalifa.

The 61-year-old was unanimously elected by the Federal Supreme Council, WAM news agency said, becoming the ruler of the oil-rich country founded by his father in 1971.

Sheikh Mohamed, often known as ‘MBZ’, met members of the Federal Supreme Council, made up of rulers of the UAE’s seven emirates, as the country enters a period of mourning for his half-brother Sheikh Khalifa.

Sheikh Mohamed’s ascension, which was widely expected, formalizes his position as leader of the desert state of 10 million after years of calling the shots while Sheikh Khalifa was sidelined by poor health. Closely allied with Saudi Ara-

bia, it has emerged as a leader of a reshaped Middle East since the retreat of traditional Arab powers and the reduced involvement of the United States, forging ties with the Zionist regime and launching a war by the Saudi-led coalition on Yemen.

Official media had already named Sheikh Mohamed as the ruler of Abu Dhabi, the UAE’s richest emirate, on Friday, inheriting one of the main titles held by Sheikh Khalifa who died at 73.

Sheikh Khalifa was born in 1948. He took over as the UAE’s second president in November 2004, succeeding his father as the 16th ruler of Abu Dhabi, the federation’s richest emirate. He was expected to be succeeded as the ruler of Abu Dhabi by his half-brother Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who suffered a stroke in 2014, following which he has rarely been seen in public, although he has continued to issue rulings.

Activists Condemn UK Visit by Bahrain Royals for Horse Show

MANAMA (Middle East Eye) – Activists have condemned a visit by members of Bahrain’s ruling family to the UK to attend a horse show that started on Thursday.

A number of Bahraini royals, including King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, travelled to the UK to attend the Royal Windsor Horse Show, held between 12 and 15 May.

The event is a key date in the British and Bahraini royal families’ summer schedules. King Hamad regularly attends and Bahrain sponsors competitions at the event.

However, a number of organizations, including the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (Bird) and the Campaign Against Arms Trade (Caat) protested outside the event, pointing out that the UK was rolling out the “red carpet” for the Bahraini royals even as

political prisoners in the kingdom continue to suffer abuse and false imprisonment.

Caat described the event as “sportswashing” and pointed out that a number of events were even named after Bahrain, including the “Kingdom of Bahrain Stakes for the King’s Cup”.

“Ruthless Bahraini dictator, King Hamad gets red carpet treatment whilst his victims, like Dr AlSingace on a 300+ day hunger strike, suffer appalling abuse in Bahrain,” tweeted Bird. “We won’t let this stand.”

Abduljalil al-Singace is director and spokesperson of the Human Rights Bureau of the Haq Movement for Civil Liberties and Democracy, and has been in jail since 2011, when he was sentenced to life in prison on terrorism allegations in the wake of anti-government demon-

strations.

He began a hunger strike in July 2021 after the confiscation of research materials from his cell in Jaw prison, in eastern Bahrain.

Singace reportedly suffers from chronic medical conditions, including post-polio syndrome, and requires crutches or a wheelchair to move. According to a communication sent by three UN special rapporteurs to the Bahraini government, his health has severely worsened during his hunger strike.

Singace was among 13 anti-government protesters who were arrested and convicted on charges that included “setting up terror groups to topple the regime”.

Since the uprising, Bahrain has outlawed opposition parties and arrested dozens of activists, sparking international criticism.