

BAGHDAD (Anadolu) – Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has condemned what he said were attempts to “tie the hands of his government”, and warned that everyone “will lose” due to the inability to form a new government for seven months. “Seven months after the election, a new government has not been formed, and some have been adopting the concept of obstruction and are striving hard to try and tie the hands of the current government instead of looking for solutions to the political deadlock,” said al-Kadhimi during his weekly government session. “We preferred silence so as not to affect the context of the political understandings, and not to be a party to them.”

He who is greedy is disgraced; he who discloses his hardship will always be humiliated; he who has no control over his tongue will often have to face discomfort.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hamas Warns Against Resumption of Zionist Assassination Policy

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinian resistance movement Hamas’ political chief Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday warned of the consequences should the Zionist regime resume its policy of assassinating Palestinians.

His media adviser, Taher al-Nunu said the Hamas leader sent messages to several foreign leaders warning against any resumption of the assassinations.

Haniyeh said that the “repercussions of any assassination attempt will be larger than expected,” al-Nunu said.

Earlier this month, several Zionist public figures called on the occupying regime’s officials to assassinate Hamas leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, in response to retaliatory attacks on the regime positions.

Tension has been rising across the Palestinian territories amid repeated arrest campaigns by the occupying regime and settler incursions into the flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in East Al-Quds.

The Zionist regime’s military said on Tuesday Mohammed Deif, the commander of the movement’s armed wing, Al-Qassam Brigades, and its leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, are the obvious targets.

‘Low Quality’ Targets

The occupying regime’s so-called military intelligence division —



Hamas resistance movement’s political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Gaza, 26 May 2021

Aman — has expanded the number of sites that the army could target in the Gaza Strip by 400 percent since the beginning of the term in the office of chief of staff Aviv Kochavi, Haaretz reported on Wednesday. However, senior espionage unit officers have described most of the targets to be “low quality”.

According to the newspaper, the regime’s army has been seeking to expand what it describes as the “bank of targets” in the Gaza Strip since its military assault against the enclave a year ago. This has been in preparation for a possible new attack.

Security officials in Aman believe that the targets are of less importance than what they had wanted, as a result of rounds of fighting

between the occupying regime and the Palestinian resistance factions in the Gaza Strip over the past two years, during which the regime bombed hundreds of Hamas sites. The officials described the inability to collect a high profile bank of targets as “very problematic”.

In another development, Zionist troops launched an arrest campaign with raids and attacks in various parts of the occupied West Bank at dawn on Wednesday, while also besieging Jenin refugee camp, where intermittent clashes were witnessed. According to the Palestinian Prisoners’ Club, 17 Palestinians were arrested.

A spokesman for the occupation army, however, said that its troops had arrested 14 Palestinians

across the West Bank, as well as four Hamas fighters on the pretext of managing the activities of the resistance movement at Bir Zeit University. A number of released prisoners are among those arrested.

The Zionist troops came under fire when they stormed into Jenin. They surrounded a number of houses in al-Hadaf neighborhood.

Furthermore, Al-Quds’ former Grand Mufti and main preacher of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Sheikh Ekrema Sabri, said the Zionist troops’ decision to prevent him from travelling does not intimidate him and will not stop him from continuing to preach at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In an interview with Al-Resala, Sheikh Sabri added that for the fourth time in a row, the occupying regime has issued a decision banning him from travel on flimsy pretexts, saying, “They claim that I violate public security and that I am in contact with terrorist organizations.”

He stressed that the regime’s decision aims to curb his activities and sow terror in the hearts of Al-Aqsa’s supporters, adding that this aggressive and unjust policy does not exist anywhere in the world except in the “occupation’s mind”.

He pointed out that the means of communication are available, and he can express his positions and convey Al-Aqsa’s voice to the world.

UN Envoy Holds Talks to Extend Yemen’s Ceasefire



A Yemenia plane is greeted with water canon salute at Sana’a International Airport as the first commercial flight in around six years, in Sana’a, Yemen, on May 16, 2022.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – With just two weeks left in a two-month ceasefire in Yemen, the UN envoy to the war-torn country said Tuesday that talks with the warring sides are going on right now and he hopes the truce will be extended.

But Hans Grundberg was wary of making any prediction, saying that agreement on an extension would depend on the talks that he and his office are having with the warring parties.

“During these past six weeks we have seen considerable positive impact on the daily lives of many Yemenis,” he told reporters after a closed briefing to the UN Security Council. “First, and most importantly, the truce is holding in military terms.”

The two-month truce is the first nationwide ceasefire in the war launched by the Saudi-led coalition in 2015.

Grundberg said that the truce between the warring sides in Yemen is holding in military terms and it has had a considerable positive impact on the daily lives of many Yemenis.

“Fighting has sharply reduced with no aerial attacks emanating from Yemen across its borders and no confirmed airstrikes inside Yemen,” he told reporters.

“Front lines across Yemen have quietened down significantly, and there

are reports of increasing humanitarian access, including in some frontline locations that had previously been extremely difficult to access,” he said.

Grundberg announced on April 1 that he had secured the truce between the warring sides, seven years after Saudi Arabia and its regional allies launched a devastating military campaign against Yemen in response to the fall of the former, Riyadh-friendly Yemeni regime.

The war has killed hundreds of thousands of people across Yemen and turned the entire country into the scene of what the UN calls the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, but it has failed to re-install the Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi regime.

Since the beginning of the truce, Sana’a has censured Riyadh for repeated violations and warned the kingdom that the Yemeni armed forces will not sit idly by in the face of continuous Saudi-led raids on their country.

Despite his positive assessment of the implementation of the truce, Grundberg also acknowledged continued fighting which has led to civilian casualties, saying, “We continue to see concerning reports of continued fighting involving incidents of civilian casualties despite overall reduction.”

U.S. Claims No Wrongdoing in Syria Strike That Killed Civilians

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A Pentagon investigation claims it has found no wrongdoing in a 2019 U.S. military strike against an eastern Syrian town that killed at least 80 civilians.

The U.S. military claims it staged the airstrike against members of the terrorist group of Daesh in the town of Baghouz in Syria’s Dayr al-Zawr province.

The investigation, whose results came out on Tuesday, was launched last year after The New York Times reported that the military had covered up the civilian

deaths.

The report said back then that a U.S. legal officer “flagged the strike as a possible war crime” and that “at nearly every step, the military made moves that concealed the catastrophic strike.” The Times report said many of the fatalities were women and children.

The probe, however, alleged that the American ground force commander for the U.S.-led coalition—which invaded the Arab country under the pretext of fighting Daesh—had received a

request for the strike from U.S.-backed Kurdish militants. The commander “received confirmation that no civilians were in the strike area” and authorized the strike, the investigation claimed.

“No Rules of Engagement or Law of War violations occurred,” the investigation said. In addition, the commander “did not deliberately or with wanton disregard cause civilian casualties,” it claimed.

The U.S. and its allies invaded Syria in 2014 under the pretext of fighting the terrorists. The terror

outfit had emerged as Washington was running out of excuses to extend its regional meddling or enlarge it in scale.

The U.S. military interference was, however, surprisingly slow in confronting the terrorists, despite the size of the coalition that had enlisted scores of Washington-allied countries.

Numerous reports and regional officials would, meanwhile, point to the U.S.’ role in transferring Daesh elements throughout the region and even airlifting supplies to the group.

1,700 Prisoners in Egypt ‘Rotated’ in Pretrial Detention Since December 2021

CAIRO (MEMO) – At least 1,764 Egyptian prisoners have been rotated in pretrial detention between January 2018 and December 2021, a punitive measure used by the Egyptian government to extend the amount of time detainees are imprisoned.

Of this number, 33 were minors, 28 were doctors and 43 were lawyers.

The Transparency Center for Research, Documentation, and Data Management in partnership with the Arab Foundation for Civil and Political Rights compiled a report on the matter and told Mada Masr that rotation is “a human rights violation that is systematically carried out for political aims.”

Under Egyptian law, a prisoner can only be held in pre-trial detention for two years and

it is supposed to be used as a measure of last resort.

As a way of bypassing this, or an acquittal or court order for their release, the prosecution orders that detainees are rotated back into detention on similar charges like “joining a terrorist group.”

The punitive measure is growing at an alarming rate. In 2021 1,456 detainees were rotated compared to 843 in 2020 and 306 in 2019.

A former leading member of the 6 April movement and dentist Walid Shawky was arrested in 2018 and began a hunger strike earlier this year to protest still being in pretrial detention.

After spending two years on remand a court ordered that Shawky be released on probation

but instead of releasing him, prison authorities forcibly disappeared him for a month and charged him with participating in protests in 2020 even though he was detained at the time. Shawky was released in April this year.

In 2019, a court ordered that Ola Qaradawi be released after two years in pretrial detention, but she was then detained on another case a day later and returned to solitary confinement.

Ola was released from jail last year. Amnesty International has said that the authorities’ growing trend of revolving prisoners “is an alarming signal of how decayed the country’s justice system has become.”

There are roughly 60,000 political prisoners in Egypt who are systematically tortured and held in squalid conditions.

Kabul Brokers Peace Talks Between Pakistani Taliban and Islamabad

KABUL (AFP) – The Afghan Taliban said on Wednesday that it was hosting peace talks between Pakistan officials and a Taliban-inspired militant group that has battled Islamabad for over a decade.

Since the Afghan Taliban returned to power last year, Islamabad has increasingly complained of attacks by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), especially along the mountainous border with Afghanistan.

The TTP is a home-grown movement but shares common roots with the new rulers of Kabul, who Pakistan has claimed permit its militants to stage assaults from Afghan soil.

“Talks were held in Kabul between the government of Pakistan and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in the mediation of the Islamic Emirate,” government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said, using the self-styled name of Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

“The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in good faith, strives for a successful negotiation process and expects both sides to be tolerant and flexible,” he said on Twitter.

In a statement, the group also confirmed that “negotiations are underway” under the guidance of the Afghan Taliban.

A truce previously agreed will also be extended until May 30, the statement said.

A militant source told AFP that “negotiations are held in Kabul in a positive atmosphere” but that it would be “premature to draw any conclusion”.

Pakistan government officials have not yet commented on the talks.

The official discussions may be an indication the Taliban are trying to smooth over rocky relations with neighboring Pakistan.

The mountainous region between Afghanistan and Pakistan has long been a hive of militant activity, with the border becoming a source of friction since the Taliban reclaimed power in August.

Islamabad has made repeated claims its forces have been targeted by militants across the international boundary.

Last month, Afghan officials said a Pakistani airstrike in eastern Afghanistan killed 47 people.