

# Palestinian Resistance Says Ready to Fight Off Any Zionists Aggression



A group of supporters of Palestinian resistance movements wave flags in support of Hamas.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement, say they are ready to battle the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip, Jenin and across all occupied cities and will continue to resist until freeing Palestine.

In a statement marking the anniversary of their victory in the occupying regime's war on the Gaza Strip, Operation al-Quds Sword, the Al-Quds Brigades said that a

year after the 11-day war, the resistance has become stronger and more equipped and is ready to fend off any invasion or "idiocy of the Israeli enemy."

Gaza-based resistance forces launched Operation Al-Quds Sword last May in defense of Palestinians in Al-Quds against the occupying regime's atrocities and desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

During that operation, Palestinian resistance groups overwhelmed the

Zionist regime by firing over 4,000 rockets and missiles into the occupied territories.

The statement said that Al-Quds Brigades are prepared for any sacrifice and fight against the Zionist enemy in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank city of Jenin and all occupied cities.

"The Zionist enemy was utterly humiliated during Operation Al-Quds Sword and concealed many facts about its defeats and casualties," the statement said, adding,

"Losses and casualties inflicted upon the Zionist regime over the course of the operation exceeded the numbers announced in Israeli television and media."

Meanwhile, Hamas warned that a far-right Zionist group's call to demolish the Dome of the Rock in the occupied Old City of Al-Quds and build a temple on its ruins is "playing with fire" and will backfire on the occupying regime.

Hamas made the warning in a statement after the Lehava group, which has earned infamy among Palestinians as a "terrorist" outfit, put out the call in an online post, the Palestinian Information Center reported.

Hamas censured such incitement as a "deliberate provocation of the feelings of the Palestinian people and the Muslim nation" and a "dangerous escalation against the Palestinian identity, values and holy sites."

The Palestinian resistance movement added, "The flames that are being tampered with by such extremist groups will rebound upon" the Israeli regime and its leaders.

Hamas called on the Palestinian masses to intensify their presence at Al-Aqsa Mosque to protect the holy site against intended settler break-ins and to stand firm in the face of the occupation and "its dangerous Judaization plots."

## Zionist Troops Try to Shoot Down Own Drone in Error

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime launched its rockets only to discover it was firing at its own drone, the occupying regime's army confessed on Friday.

Sirens sounded in the Upper Galilee, near the Lebanese border, with residents rushing into shelters.

"Due to an error in identification, the IDF Aerial Defense Array launched in-

terceptors which caused the alarms heard in northern Israel," the regime's army said in a statement.

The humiliation for the Zionist regime comes as Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has flown drones over the occupied territories for reconnaissance missions, and returned the aircraft untouched after completing the mission successfully.

The leader of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, said last year the resistance movement has developed the capability to make rockets and drones on its own.

Lebanon fought off two wars the Zionist regime in 2000 and 2006. On both occasions, battleground contribution by Hezbollah proved an indispensable asset, forcing the regime's military into

a retreat.

Hezbollah was established following the 1982 invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon. The movement drove out Zionist troops from Lebanon in May 2000.

Since then, the resistance group has grown into a powerful military force, dealing repeated blows to the military, including during a 33-day war in July 2006.

## Monkeypox... (Continued From Page One)

Experts have stressed they do not know if the disease is being spread through sex or other close contact related to sex.

Nigeria hasn't seen sexual transmission, Tomori said, but he noted that viruses that hadn't initially been known to transmit via sex, like Ebola, were later proven to do so after bigger epidemics showed different patterns of spread.

The same could be true of monkeypox, Tomori said.

In Germany, Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said the government was confident the outbreak could be contained. He said the virus was being sequenced to see if there were any genetic changes that might have made it more infectious.

Rolf Gustafson, an infectious diseases professor, told Swedish broadcaster SVT that it was "very difficult" to imagine the situation might worsen.

"We will certainly find some further cases in Sweden, but I do not think there will be an epidemic in any way," Gustafson said. "There is nothing to suggest that at present."

Scientists said that while it's possible the outbreak's first patient caught the disease while in Africa, what's happening now is exceptional.

"We've never seen anything like what's happening in Europe," said Christian Happi, director of the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases. "We haven't seen anything to say that the transmission patterns of monkeypox have been changing in Africa. So if something different is happening in Europe, then Europe needs to investigate that."

In many importing countries, governments cannot afford subsidies to increase the help to the poor, especially if they also import energy—another market in turmoil.

The crisis threatens to get worse. Ukraine had already shipped much of last summer's crop before the war. Russia is still managing to sell its grain, despite added costs and risks for shippers. However, those Ukrainian silos that are undamaged by the fighting are full of corn and barley. Farmers have nowhere to store their next harvest, due to start in late June, which may therefore rot. And they lack the fuel and labor to plant the one after that. Russia, for its part, may lack some supplies of the seeds and pesticides it usually buys from the European Union.

In spite of soaring grain prices, farmers elsewhere in the world may not make up the shortfall. One reason is that prices are volatile. Worse, profit margins are shrinking, because of the surging prices of fertilizer and energy. These are farmers' main costs and both markets are disrupted by sanctions and the scramble for natural gas. If farmers cut back on fertilizer, global yields will be lower at just the wrong time.

The response by worried politicians could make a bad situation worse. Since the war started, 23 countries from Kazakhstan to Kuwait have declared severe restrictions on food exports that cover 10% of globally traded calories. More than one-fifth of all fertilizer exports are restricted. If trade stops, famine will ensue.

The scene is set for a blame game, in which the West condemns Russian President Vladimir Putin for the war and Russia decries Western sanctions. In truth the disruptions are primarily the result of the war and Western sanctions have exacerbated them. The argument could easily become an excuse for inaction. Meanwhile many people will be going hungry and some will die.

According to The Economist, instead states need to act together, starting by keeping markets open. This week Indonesia, source of 60% of the world's palm oil, lifted a temporary ban on exports. Europe should help Ukraine ship its grain via rail and road to ports in Romania or the Baltics, though even the most optimistic forecasts say that just 20% of the harvest could get out that way. Importing countries need support, too, so they do not end up being capsized by enormous bills. Emergency supplies of grain should go only to the very poorest. For others, import financing on favorable terms, perhaps provided through the IMF would allow donors' dollars to go further. Debt relief may also help to free up vital resources.

Immediate relief would come from breaking the Black Sea blockade. Roughly 25 million tonnes of corn and wheat, equivalent to the annual consumption of all of the world's least developed economies, is trapped in Ukraine. Three countries must be brought outside: Russia needs to allow Ukrainian shipping; Ukraine has to de-mine the approach to Odessa; and Turkey needs to let naval escorts through the Bosphorus.

"That will not be easy. Russia, struggling on the battlefield, is trying to strangle Ukraine's economy. Ukraine is reluctant to clear its mines. Persuading them to relent will be a task for countries, including India and China, that have sat out the war. Convoys may require armed escorts endorsed by a broad coalition. Feeding a fragile world is everyone's business," The Economist said.

unlikely to be the last.

"I will continue to fight for this till my death," Jat said. "We respect the courts but if needed we will demolish the Taj and prove the existence of a temple there."

Audrey Truschke, an associate professor of South Asian history with Rutgers University, said the claims about the Taj Mahal are "about as reasonable as the proposals that the Earth is flat."

"So far as I can discern, there is not a coherent theory about the Taj Mahal at play here so much as a frenzied and fragile nationalist pride that does not allow anything non-Hindu to be Indian and demands to erase Muslim parts of Indian heritage," she told AFP.

But while the demolition of the Taj Mahal remains -- for now, at least -- a pipe-dream of the fundamentalists, other sites are also in the crosshairs.

They include the Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura, built by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb after he attacked the city and destroyed its temples in 1670.

The mosque is next to a later temple built on what is believed to be the birthplace of the Hindu god Krishna.

On Thursday a court agreed to hear a lawsuit demanding the removal of the mosque, one of a slew of similar petitions.

Police in the northern city have been put on alert.

Another is Delhi's Qutub Minar, a 13th-century minaret and victory tower built by the Mamluk dynasty, also from Central Asia.

Some Hindu groups believe it was constructed by a Hindu king and that the complex housed more than 25 temples.

Such claims were born of a "very sparse" knowledge of the past, historian Rana Safvi told AFP.

Instead, a "sense of victimhood" was being fuelled by social media misinformation, she said, "making them believe it's the gospel

## Economist... (Continued From Page One)

up 20 rooms inside, believing they contained Hindu idols.

The ASI said there were no such idols and the court summarily dismissed the petition.

But it was not the first such case -- and it is

Even... (Continued From Page One)

truth".

### Nasrallah ... (Continued From Page One)

the resistance, spearheaded by the Americans, the number of votes and parliament members had increased for Hezbollah and its allies in the Arab country.

The Hezbollah leader further said that contrary to claims, there was no single bloc in the parliament that could claim the majority in elections, adding that none of the honest political parties made that claim.

The advantage of not having a single party or group owning the majority in the parliament, he asserted, makes everyone equally responsible.

He further said the nature of the crisis in Lebanon does not allow one single group to solve the crisis single-handedly even if they have the majority, which calls for cooperation between all different groups.

He also debunked lies promoted by the opposition, including that the resistance bloc sought to postpone the election, that elections were held under the presence of Hezbollah's weapons, and of Iran's influence.

"We saw the American embassy and the electoral lists that were made there. We saw the Saudi ambassador and bags of money that were spent. Did anyone see any Iranian intruding in those elections," he remarked.

Nasrallah called for changing the current election law, saying it is not like some people would win a seat in the parliament with 500 votes while others who get thousands of votes do not reach the parliament.

He hastened to add that there are several reforms that need to be made in the election process such as allowing people above the age of 18 to vote. The division of the districts should also be changed and replaced with making Lebanon a single electoral district, he insisted.

### Simorgh... (Continued From Page 2)

significant role as the armed forces need to enhance capabilities in logistical operations and transportation of cargoes, vehicles, and manpower on battlefields, he hastened to add.

"The Iranian Defense Ministry assigns high priority to beef up the country's deterrent power and fulfilling the needs of ground, naval, and air force units in areas that determine the fate of the asymmetrical warfare," the top defense official said in his remarks.

Iranian military experts and engineers have in recent years made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored the need to strengthen the country's military capabilities, including its missile power, for defense purposes, and stressed that the country's defense capabilities will never be subject to negotiations.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has repeatedly called for efforts to maintain and boost Iran's defense capabilities, decrying enemies for raising question marks over the country's peaceful missile program.

According to military experts, Simorgh is equipped with TV3-117 engines and has a maximum cargo weight of 6 tons and a final range of 3700 km, capable of reaching 900 km with maximum cargo weight.

### President... (Continued From Page 2)

The Cuban official, for his part, described mutual ties as "deep and strategic" in nature, underlining Havana's will to develop its economic and commercial relationship with Tehran.

He also called for the implementation of "medium-term and long-term" projects that would enhance mutual relations to the level of "multilateral relations across the Latin American region."

Separately, President Raisi said the most important factor that can strengthen regional security is the existence of constructive relations between neighboring countries.

He made the remarks in a Thursday meeting with Azerbaijan's First Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Abdulla Oghlu Mustafayev in Tehran.

During the meeting, Raisi highlighted Iran's "principled position" on supporting the unity and territorial integrity of all countries, including the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan.

"The existence of constructive relations on the basis of mutual interests between neighboring countries, including Iran and Azerbaijan, is the most effective factor in maintaining and bolstering the regional security," Iran's president said.

He added that the United States and the Zionist regime are not sympathetic toward regional countries and other nations across the world.

Noting that Iran welcomes all-out expansion of economic, political, cultural and trade

ties with Azerbaijan, Raisi called for complete implementation of agreements between Tehran and Baku in various fields, especially economy and transit.

"Iran and Azerbaijan are more than mere neighbors as they share the same religion and the same culture... No factor must be allowed to harm the two countries' friendly relations," the president said.

Mustafayev, for his part, underlined that the Republic of Azerbaijan is persistently pursuing the implementation of agreements between the two countries.

The Azeri official added that new plans are being drawn up to implement new rail, road and transit projects with the aim of developing relations between the two neighbors.

The relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, he said, have progressed and developed in all sectors.

### Grossi... (Continued From Page 2)

policy has been a disastrous failure. It has retained the IRGC's designation and the economic sanctions as leverage in the talks.

Speaking to the EU Parliament on May 17, Grossi said he is not trying to pass an alarmist message that Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA are at a dead end but expressed hope that the sides would reach "some agreement" on the JCPOA revival.

"We are, of course, still hopeful that some agreement is going to be reached within a reasonable time frame, although we have to recognize the fact that the window of opportunity could be closed any anytime," the IAEA chief said.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said last week that Tehran and the P4+1 still have the opportunity to reach a "good and reliable" agreement on the JCPOA revival if the United States makes the necessary decision and honors its commitments.

"A good and reliable outcome is within reach if U.S. makes its decision & adheres to its commitments," the top Iranian diplomat tweeted.

### Envoy... (Continued From Page 2)

Importantly, despite hosting 60 percent of the world's arable land, the African continent is a major importer of food, which means that disruptions in the supply chain affect it the most.

Millions of people in the African countries fear being pushed into poverty and malnutrition amid acute food insecurity in the world.

Iran's permanent representative to the UN also drew the world's attention to the food crisis in Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

"In Afghanistan, 22 million people suffer from food insecurity and are in dire need of help. Iran is cooperating with international organizations to address the emergency food security situation in Afghanistan," he said.

"The international community is expected to help Afghans overcome their problems amid the current challenging situation."

Takht-Ravanchi said the acute food insecurity in Yemen recorded an 8 percent increase in the early part of this year, compared to the same period last year.

He said the decades of Israeli occupation and the apartheid regime's policies have led to a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Palestine, calling for swift and unconditional removal of the siege on the Gaza Strip, which has severely restricted the access of people residing in the coastal enclave to food.

Iran's UN ambassador also said the ongoing foreign occupation of Syrian lands, terrorism, and unilateral sanctions have displaced millions of people in the Arab country, destroyed people's livelihoods, disrupted trade and agriculture, and damaged vital infrastructure.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Takht-Ravanchi pointed to the negative effects of sanctions on food security, saying unilateral coercive measures violate basic human rights, including the right to food, and result in food insecurity.

"Unfortunately, some countries continue to employ such illegal actions, which are prohibited under the international humanitarian law, as a weapon to starve the sanctioned countries," he said.

"We believe that food supplies and food chains should not be disrupted by any means, even at the time of armed conflicts. Close adherence to international law, especially the 1949 Geneva Convention, is essential in this regard," Takht-Ravanchi said.

He said the UN sanctions should not be slapped in a way that would "endanger global food security."

"All parties to a conflict must respect and protect medical and humanitarian staff. The principles of humanity, impartiality, and independence must also be observed when providing humanitarian assistance," the envoy emphasized.

"We support the efforts by the leadership of the United Nations aimed at addressing food insecurity challenges and are ready to assist such attempts."