

KUWAIT (Dispatches) – Kuwait has summoned the U.S. envoy over a controversial post on Twitter that celebrated the so-called LGBT Pride Month in violation of the Arab country's laws that criminalize homosexuality. In a tweet, the U.S. embassy in Kuwait said President Joe Biden is a "champion for the human rights of #LGBTQI persons" while marking the event. Homosexuality is punishable by law in a number of Muslim-majority countries, including Kuwait. Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Acting Assistant Minister for Affairs of the Americas Nawaf Al-Ahmad late on Thursday handed Acting Charge d'Affaire at the U.S. embassy, James Holtsnider, a memorandum disavowing his tweet.

One who says unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target of their scandal.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Thousands in Yemen Protest Ongoing Saudi Aggression

SANA'A (Dispatches) – Thousands of Yemeni people have poured into the streets in the capital Sana'a and other cities to voice their outrage over the continued acts of aggression and war crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition.

The demonstrations were held on Saturday in honor of the late founder of the Ansarullah movement Hussein al-Houthi.

Waving Yemen's flag, the protesters chanted slogans against the aggressors and their key ally, the United States.

They expressed support for the Yemeni army troops and fighters from the Popular Committees, and called for resistance against the Saudi-led coalition of aggression during the massive rally in the capital staged under the motto "Cry in the Face of Aggressors."

The Yemeni protesters made it clear to their enemies that their country will remain independent and free. Demonstrators also slammed dishonest calls for peace made by certain Arab governments that have normalized relations with the Zionist regime.

High-ranking Yemeni officials



Yemenis participate in a mass rally in the Mahliyah district of Yemen's central province of Ma'rib on June 4, 2022, to protest against the continued Saudi-led aggression against their country.

and politicians participated in the large demonstration in Sana'a.

Elsewhere in Yemen's central province of al-Bayda, large crowds of people took part in massive protests in the Rada'a and Sawadiyah districts to condemn the Saudi war.

The residents of the Jabal al-Sharq, Wusab al-Ali, and Wusab al-Safil districts in the southeastern province of Dhamar also staged mass rallies to condemn the crimes

of the Saudi-led military alliance and the brutal blockade of Yemen.

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

The objective was to reinstall the Riyadh-friendly regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and crush the Ansarullah resistance movement,

which has been running state affairs in the absence of a functional government in Yemen.

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

Yemeni protesters slammed international silence on the Saudi atrocities and the economic war.

In another development, the Saudi-led coalition forces impounded an oil tanker bound for Yemen in flagrant breach of a UN-brokered ceasefire.

The Force Power tanker, which was due to dock at Yemen's western port of Hodaydah, was carrying 22,915 tons of mazut and 7,296 tons of diesel fuel, Essam al-Mutawakil, a spokesman for the Yemeni National Oil Company, said.

Mutawakil added that the ship was confiscated despite being inspected and cleared for the port by the United Nations staff.

The coalition seized the Yemen-bound fuel ships despite the UN-brokered truce between Yemen's warring parties that was extended for 2 months on Thursday.

Zionist Troops Martyr More Palestinians



Mourners carry the body of Ghofran Warasnah, killed by Zionist troops, during her funeral at Al-Aroub refugee camp north the West Bank city of Al-Khalil, on June 1, 2022.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have shot dead a Palestinian boy near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, the fourth since Wednesday.

The 17-year-old teenage boy, identified as Odeh Mohammad Odeh, was shot dead in the vicinity of the separation wall in the village of al-Midyah, west of Ramallah, on Thursday afternoon, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said in a brief statement.

The ministry said Odeh was brought to Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the chest, but he succumbed to his wounds despite attempts to save his life.

Odeh was the fourth Palestinian shot and killed by Zionist troops in the West Bank since Wednesday, and the 63rd since January.

Later on Thursday, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh issued a statement, condemning the killing of Odeh by the regime troops as well as "all the horrific crimes committed against our children and loved ones."

Shtayyeh said the perpetrators of such crimes are determined to murder Palestinians. The Palestinian prime minister noted that Odeh is another child killed in continuation of Zionist crimes, which include a long list of targeting children, women and the elderly, "as a result of the international community's continuation of its double-standard

policies that encourage the perpetrators to continue their crimes."

The development comes as the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has called on the international community to take immediate action to protect Palestinian children from the occupying regime's brutality, saying they are suffering both in Palestine and abroad due to the regime's occupation of their homeland.

Hamas made the appeal on "the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression" on Saturday, urging the international community to save Palestinian children through criminalizing the occupation and putting an end to it, the Palestinian Information Center reported.

"The children of Palestine are victims of aggression and brutal occupation," the movement said in a statement.

"This day has come once again as a reminder of the Palestinian children's suffering and pain at home, in refugee camps, and abroad and to call upon the world to pay attention to the appalling aggression that is still practiced by the Zionist occupation against our children," it said.

Hamas pointed out that more than 88 Palestinian children had been killed by Zionist troops between 2021 and 2022, adding that "over 170 Palestinian children are being held in Israeli jails, where they are subjected to psychological and physical torture."

Damascus Deplores Turkey's Incursion as Breach of Sovereignty

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syria has vehemently condemned Turkey's acts of aggression against the Arab country, saying Turkish forces' incursions into its territory violate international law.

The announcement was made in a statement by an unnamed source in Syria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, the country's official SANA news agency reported.

"The aggressive threats of the Turkish regime pose a blatant violation of the international law and the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria," the ministry said.

The statement added that Turkey's incursions into the Syrian territory contradict the agreements reached through the Astana process and pose a serious

threat to peace and security in the region while undermining internationally-sponsored agreements on the lines of the de-escalation zones in Syria.

Turkey has been conducting several incursions against neighboring Syria's northern parts since 2016 to target the Kurdish militants affiliated with the so-called People's Protection Units (YPG).

Ankara associates the YPG with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been fighting a separatist war against Turkey for decades.

On Saturday, six Syrian troops were injured near the Tal Tamer town in the northeastern Syrian province of al-Hasakah after the Turkish military bombarded the area with heavy artillery, according to local sources.

The sources said Turkey bombarded the village of Umm al-Kif in al-Hasakah and the electricity network of Tal Tamer, Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network reported.

The sources added that the attack had caused significant damage to citizens' property, harmed the electricity network, and cut off power in the district.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned on Wednesday that the country was to take yet "another step" to "clean up" the northern Syrian cities of Tal Rifat and Manbij. The Turkish forces would then fan out to other areas in the Arab country, the Turkish head of state added.

Furthermore, Syria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has censured the European Union's lack of independence

and its insistence on repeating lies about positive developments in the war-ravaged country, saying the bloc and the United States bear full responsibility for the suffering of the Syrians as a result of unilateral coercive measures.

"The European Union insists once again on repeating lies about the situation in Syria and that is completely detached from reality," an official source at the ministry said in a statement, Syria's official news agency SANA reported.

The source said the EU despises the great achievements made by the country in the fight against terrorism, the promotion of stability and national reconciliation, and the settlement of the legal status of many citizens through amnesty decrees.

Lebanon Warns Against Any Zionist 'Aggression' in Disputed Waters

BEIRUT (Reuters) – Lebanon warned the Zionist regime on Sunday against any "act of aggressive" in disputed energy-rich waters, after a ship arrived off the coast to produce gas for the occupying regime.

President Michel Aoun said any activity in the disputed area would amount to an act of aggression and a provocation, after the arrival of the natural gas storage and production ship operated by London-based Energean.

In a statement, the Lebanese presidency said Aoun discussed with caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati the vessel's entry "into the disputed maritime area with Israel, and asked the Army Command to provide him with accurate and official data to build upon the matter."

Aoun said negotiations to delineate the southern maritime area continued and "any action or activity in the disputed area represents a provocation and an aggressive action."

There was no immediate response from the Zionist regime to Aoun's statement. The regime's energy minister Karine Elaharrar welcomed the vessel's arrival and said she hoped it would be brought online quickly.

"We will continue to work to diversify the energy market and maintain stability and reliability," she said.

Energean said its floating production storage and offloading vessel arrived on Sunday at the Karish field, about 80 km (50 miles) west of the city of Haifa.

Mikati said the occupying regime was "encroaching on Lebanon's maritime wealth, and imposing a fait accompli in a disputed area," calling this "extremely dangerous."

The United States began mediating indirect talks between the sides in 2000 to settle a long-running dispute between old foes that has obstructed energy exploration in the eastern Mediterranean. Lebanon is home to the resistance movement Hezbollah which has fought off numerous wars with the occupying regime.

Hezbollah has previously warned the regime against drilling for oil and gas in the disputed area until the issue is resolved, and said the movement would take action if it did so.

Saudi Arabia Receives 1st Foreign Hajj Pilgrims Since Covid Began

RIYADH (Middle East Eye) – Saudi Arabia welcomed its first batch of foreign Hajj pilgrims since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, which had prompted authorities to sharply restrict numbers for the annual pilgrimage.

Mohammed al-Bijawi, from the country's Hajj ministry, told the state-run Al-Ekhbariya channel on Sunday: "Today we received the first group of this year's pilgrims from Indonesia, and the flights will continue from Malaysia and India."

"Today we are happy to receive the guests of God from outside the kingdom, after a two-year interruption due to the pandemic."

The group from Indonesia landed in the city of Medina and was set to travel south to the holy city of Mecca in the coming weeks to prepare for Hajj next month.

As the pandemic began in 2020, Saudi authorities announced they would let only 1,000 pilgrims participate.

In 2021, the number was increased to 60,000 fully vaccinated

and Saudi citizens and residents chosen through a lottery.

Hajj is usually one of the world's largest religious gatherings. Around 2.5 million people took part in 2019.

Hosting Hajj is a significant source of revenue for the kingdom, bringing in around \$12bn annually.

Barring overseas pilgrims as a Covid-19 precaution caused deep disappointment among Muslims worldwide.

However, Saudi Arabia announced in April that it would permit one million Muslims, including people outside of the country, to participate in this year's pilgrimage, which will take place in July.

This year's pilgrimage will be limited to vaccinated Muslims under the age of 65, the Hajj ministry said.

Those outside Saudi Arabia, who must apply for Hajj visas, are required to submit a negative Covid-19 PCR result from a test taken within 72 hours of travel.