



Yemeni Armed Forces Stage Massive Military Parade to Mark Revolution

SANA'A (Dispatches) – Troops from various units of Yemeni Armed Forces have held a massive military parade in the capital Sana'a to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the September 21 revolution against a Saudi-backed regime in the country and its removal from power.

A ceremony was held at al-Sabeen Square, the main square of national celebrations in the Yemeni capital, on Thursday with high-ranking political and security officials as well as senior military commanders in attendance.

In the event, overseen by the leader of Yemen's Ansarullah popular resistance movement, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, units from different divisions of the Yemeni Army, including the Ground Force and the Air Defense, displayed their achievements.

Al-Houthi hailed efforts and sacrifices being made by the country's Ministry of Interior and security forces to maintain nationwide peace and stability, stressing that they have foiled plots by the Saudi regime and its regional allies.

"Apart from waging an atrocious military campaign [against Yemen] and massacring civilians, the Saudi-led coalition of aggression



Troops from various units of Yemeni Armed Forces participate in a massive military parade in the capital Sana'a on September 15, 2022 to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the September 21 revolution.

is making blatant attempts to undermine Yemen's national security and stability," al-Houthi said as he addressed the massive military parade in the capital Sana'a via video link.

He added, "The Saudi-led coalition recruits Takfiri extremists and other terrorists in order to implement its criminal plots such as explosions. Brutal acts of violence and appalling massacre of ordinary people by Takfiri terrorists would be a common occurrence of the Yemeni nation's lives if the enemy

had managed to advance it plots."

"Thanks to the grace of God and efforts being made by the Ministry of Interior and security forces, the Saudi-led alliance has failed to achieve any of its goals," Houthi pointed out.

He emphasized that "Security is our top priority, and the Yemeni Ministry of Interior is working within the framework of its duties to support the nation and maintain security and stability."

The Ansarullah chief went on to say, "The Saudi-led coalition has

spared no effort to target Yemeni security institutions, which serve the nation, guarantee its security and defend the country. The Saudi-led coalition has recurrently targeted Yemen's infrastructure. This is while Yemeni security forces have withstood all these wicked bids, and are now more powerful and efficient."

A broad range of advanced equipment such as missiles, armored vehicles, rifles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and air defense missile systems were put on display.

In 2014, the people of Yemen led a popular uprising against the Saudi-backed unpopular regime of Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi.

As protests gripped the country, the Ansarullah resistance movement on September 21 took control of the capital Sana'a following a rapid advance south from their northern stronghold of Sa'ada.

The massively popular protests were against the incompetent and corrupt regime in Sana'a backed by Riyadh.

In a bid to crush the resistance and reinstall the Hadi regime, a Saudi-led coalition launched a ferocious bombing campaign on the neighboring Arab country barely six months later.

Afghans Protest U.S. Decision on Frozen Assets



Afghans protest against recent U.S. decision regarding the frozen Afghan assets in capital Kabul, Afghanistan on Feb. 15, 2022.

KABUL (Xinhua) – Hundreds of Afghans gathered in front of the former Afghanistan Human Rights Commission office in capital Kabul Saturday to protest against the recent U.S. announcement regarding transferring a part of Afghanistan's national reserves to a trust in Switzerland, calling the full release of the assets.

Holding placards and banners, the protesters chanted anti-U.S. slogans, blaming the United States for the ongoing humanitarian and economic crisis in Afghanistan.

The protesters demanded the immediate, full release of Afghanistan's central bank reserves.

"Today, we protest in front of the Human Rights Commission building. U.S. should immediately unfreeze Afghanistan's money," LaLa Agha, one of the organizers, told Xinhua.

Rafeuallah, another participant, who is a shopkeeper, said, "U.S.

should immediately return our money."

The protesters issued a declaration at the end of the demonstration, accusing the U.S.-led forces of war crimes and atrocious killing of innocent Afghan men, women and children. In the declaration, protesters also asked for the immediate and full unfreezing of the more than 9 billion U.S. dollars and trial of soldiers who have committed war crimes.

Following the withdrawal of the U.S.-led forces from the Asian country, Afghanistan's assets worth more than 9 billion U.S. dollars were frozen by the United States as part of its sanctions on the new rulers of the war-torn country.

The U.S. government announced Wednesday that the 3.5 billion USD of Afghan central bank reserves it had frozen will be transferred to a newly-established "Afghan Fund" in Switzerland.

Palestinians Commemorate 1982 Sabra, Shatila Massacre in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) – Palestinians commemorated Friday the 40th anniversary of the horrific killings in a refugee camp in Beirut that left hundreds of people dead during the Zionist regime's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Dozens of citizens from Europe who support the Palestinian cause also took part in the memorial held in Beirut close to where the men, women and children were killed by Zionist regime-backed Lebanese Christian militiamen.

Over three days in September of that year, the Christian militia swept through Shatila camp, and its sister area of Sabra, slaughtering hundreds of Palestinian men, women and

children. To this day, the official toll is 328 confirmed killed, 991 missing.

One of those attending the memorial was Kamal Maruf, 82, who on Sept. 18, 1982 was ordered down from his apartment early in the morning along with his 19-year-old son, Jamal. They were forced by members of the Lebanese Forces militia to gather in a square with others.

"They took lots of people and my son was one of them. I have no idea where they took them," said Maruf. It was the last time he saw his son.

"Until this day I don't know if my son was martyred," he said, adding that he would fight for

justice for his son as long as he lives.

Two days before the rampage started, Bachir Gemayel, the Lebanese Forces commander elected president in August 1982, was assassinated in a bomb in Beirut. Hours after the assassination, Zionist troops stormed Beirut's western neighborhoods after Palestinian fighters had left weeks earlier, under and internationally brokered deal.

Ariel Sharon was the occupying regime's war minister at the time of the massacre and in 1983, he was criticized by an inquiry commission that found him indirectly responsible for the massacre of hundreds of

Palestinian refugees as well as some Lebanese by Lebanese Forces militiamen.

Twenty-three survivors of the killings filed a case against Sharon in Belgium in 2001 but a court there said a year later that the case was "inadmissible."

In 2002, Lebanese Christian warlord Elie Hobeika who commanded the force that entered the camp and carried out the killings, was killed in an explosion near his home, southeast of Beirut.

"We demonstrate with our presence today and each year that we share the humanity and need of justice," said Italian citizen Salvatore Infantino, 37, who flew to Beirut to take part in the commemoration.

Bahrain's Opposition Calls for Boycott of November Legislative Elections

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Bahrain's main opposition group, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, has called for the boycott of the upcoming parliamentary elections in the Persian Gulf nation, amid the escalation of political repression, and absence of serious reforms.

Al-Wefaq, in a statement, described boycott of November 12 polls as a national duty, emphasizing that the ruling Manama regime maintains absolute control over the electoral process and seeks to install a weak legislature, whose main task would be to burnish the image of the corrupt Al Khalifah dynasty and cover up its human rights abuses.

It added that the constitutional and political rift between the Bahraini regime and nation is deepening day by day, the main reason of which, it said, is the lack of any social agree-

ment between the two sides.

In the absence of a real administration, the Al Khalifah regime continues its authoritarian rule through imposing its political, economic, security and social wills on the Bahraini nation, Wefaq said.

"The boycott of the upcoming elections is the least thing that one could do in the face of oppression, corruption, tyranny and domination in Bahrain," Wefaq highlighted, stressing that continuation of the present situation will pose a real danger to the livelihood, security and future of Bahraini people as well as future generations.

"We reiterate that the only solution to the crisis in Bahrain is a comprehensive solution that gives compatriots the full right to freely choose the type of political system they want

as stipulated by international treaties and agreements, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," the statement read.

It added, "There is a need to change from an authoritarian regime to a democratic government, where people can make their choices through democratic and peaceful mechanisms than administrations that have proven to be failing and ineffective. An authoritarian regime lacks the ability to tackle crises, and actually aggravates them."

"The countries that support the Al Khalifah regime have a responsibility towards Bahraini people, particularly the countries that claim to be advocates of democracy and freedom but strive to perpetuate tyranny and human rights violations," Wefaq underscored.

New Data: Middle East Views China More Favorably Than U.S.

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – Across the Middle East and North Africa, China is seen as a more favorable presence than the United States. However, the region's desire for closer economic ties with Beijing has dropped considerably over the past several years, according to new data from the Arab Barometer.

The Arab Barometer, a research project based at Princeton University, presented its new findings on Thursday at the Middle East Institute, which showed that out of the nine countries it polled, only those in the occupied Palestinian territories had less than 49 percent favorability of China.

The U.S., meanwhile, found itself having a favorability of higher than 47 percent in only four countries - Morocco, Sudan, Mauritania, and Jordan.

The U.S. is also seen by a majority of the countries polled as a greater economic threat to the region, according to the Arab Barometer.

"There is a lot of potential attractions with the economic model China has presented for the past 40 years to increase the wellbeing of the people in the country, at least in terms of income," said Michael Robbins,

project director of the Arab Barometer.

"With the United States ... its political policies are typically less popular, it's invaded a number of countries in the region. It certainly has a tie with Israel, which as we saw is not very popular" in the region.

Over the past decade, China has emerged as a key player in the Middle East, economically, politically, and militarily.

For Middle East countries, purchasing weapons from Beijing can reduce their political dependence on the U.S. and Europe - while providing an inexpensive means to stockpile their arsenals.

Chinese weapons also come with few strings attached, unlike the U.S. and Europe, which use human rights concerns to apply some conditions on the supply of arms to some countries.

China has also emerged as the biggest buyer of Persian Gulf energy, while oil-rich monarchies have turned to Beijing for 5G and surveillance technology.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia, some of the top economic powers in the region, now rank in the top three countries globally for Chinese construction projects under the Belt and Road initiative.