

Zionists Plan to Destroy 30,000 Trees on Palestinian Lands



Zionist troops walk past cut-down olive trees on lands belonging to Palestinians in the West Bank, on 2 May 2020.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist regime authorities have notified the Municipal Council of Khirbet A'tuf of the plan to destroy a 400 acre nature reserve and uproot 30,000 trees in an area to the southwest of Tubas. Moataz Bisharat is responsible for monitoring settlement activity in the occupied Jordan Valley. He told Wafa news agency that the notice was only found in the nature reserve on Monday.

It was dated 6 October, which suggests that the Zionist occupation authorities had no real intention of advising the local Palestinians of the plan, and were intending to just turn up on the day with bulldozers. According to the head of the Municipal Council, Abdullah Bsharat, the trees which the regime is going to destroy were planted by the council and the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture with funds from interna-

tional donors. The Jordan Valley is a fertile strip of land running along the west bank of the River Jordan. It is home to about 65,000 Palestinians, and makes up approximately 30 percent of the total area of the occupied West Bank. Almost 90 percent of the West Bank has been designated Area C under full military and civilian control. In another flagrant defiance of in-

ternational outcry against settlement expansion and land grab policies in occupied Palestinian territories, Zionist authorities have approved plans for the construction of hundreds of new settler units in the northern part of Al-Quds.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that the so-called Al-Quds Local Planning and Building Committee on Monday gave the green light for plans to build the units on Palestinian-owned lands in several neighborhoods. The plan aims to make radical changes to the infrastructure in the settlements, linking them to the regime's so-called Greater Al-Quds Project and the light rail system.

Emboldened by former U.S. president Donald Trump's all-out support, the Zionist regime has stepped up its illegal settlement construction activities in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which pronounced settlements in the West Bank and East Al-Quds "a flagrant violation under international law."

Much of the international community regards the settler units in the occupied lands as illegal.

More than 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the West Bank and East Al-Quds.

Saudi Arabia Snubs U.S. Officials Ahead of 'Davos in Desert'

RIYADH (Middle East Eye) – U.S. government officials have not been invited to a Saudi investment conference planned for later this month, with the organizer saying they did not want the gathering "to become a political platform". The decision not to invite American officials, a departure from previous years, comes as tensions rise between long-time partners Washington and Riyadh over the Saudi-led OPEC+'s recent vote to cut oil production by up to two million barrels per day from November. The Future Investment Initiative (FII), a three-day confer-

ence set to begin on 25 October in Riyadh, typically draws Wall Street titans and high-ranking officials from around the world. And up to 400 American CEOs are expected to participate this year, said Richard Attias, CEO of the group behind the event. It is often referred to as "Davos in the Desert". Saudi Arabia has in recent days rejected U.S. accusations it has aligned itself with Russia amid the Ukraine war by making oil production cuts to drive up crude prices, insisting it was purely a business decision. In a speech broadcast on Sunday night, Saudi King Salman insisted his country was "work-

ing hard, within its energy strategy, to support the stability and balance of global oil markets". Steven Mnuchin, who served as treasury secretary under former U.S. president Donald Trump, addressed FII during its debut in 2017, though he pulled out the following year amid global outrage over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Last year's event was attended by Don Graves, deputy commerce secretary under current U.S. President Joe Biden. Asked about U.S. attendance this year, Richard Attias, the conference organizer, told AFP: "We didn't invite any

U.S. government" figures. "We are not inviting too many politicians... because I realized that when you have political leaders on stage, the attention of the media, let's be very frank, is diverted to the political agenda, and we don't want FII to become a political platform." The decision follows a move by the Biden administration last week to cancel a meeting with Saudi Arabia which would have focused on integrated air and missile defence. Several U.S. lawmakers within Biden's Democratic party have also called for suspending military sales and cooperation with Riyadh.

Egypt Activist After Fleeing to UK: I Saw Detainees Being Tortured

CAIRO (MEMO) – Sanaa Seif, the sister of the detained Egyptian political activist, Alaa Abdelfattah, confirmed that she witnessed detainees being tortured during her detention in Egypt. In an interview with the Guardian newspaper, the 28-year-old Egyptian activist said her decision to escape Egypt and travel to London after her release from jail was not an easy one. Living in exile, she explained, means not only saying goodbye to family and friends and being far from the country where her brother is imprisoned and on hunger strike. Sanaa has been imprisoned three times since the January 2011 revolution, and she is now fighting for the release of her brother, one of the most prominent political prisoners in the country. "It took a lot of contemplation (...) I had time to think – this was my third stretch inside. (...) I had to accept that could be my future. That's what the authorities threatened." "The cell I'd been in the first time housed seven of us, this time, we were

82 women in the same space," she said, adding that being charged as a terrorist meant the treatment she received changed. "I was interrogated for hours, with only light clothes on while the AC was on its coldest setting. Neither I nor my lawyer knew what I was being accused of. I was told that whatever happened, nobody would hear or believe me." She said from her cell should she could hear and see detainees being tortured. She said this was the prison guards' way of torturing her as her family status afforded her a little protection in prison. Instead of hurting her directly, she explained, guards would bring women into her cell and break them up in front of her. Sanaa Seif was sentenced to a year and a half in prison in 2021 for "spreading false news" after she was detained outside the public prosecutor's office where she was filing a complaint about an assault on her and her mother.

Turkish Opposition Applies to Annul Disinformation Law

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey's main opposition party has applied to the top court to annul an article added to the penal code that sets jailtime for spreading "disinformation" as part of a new media law, a party official said on Tuesday. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), had

earlier promised that his party would apply to the Constitutional Court for the full media law to be annulled. Parliament approved the bill last week and it became law early on Tuesday when it was published in the Official Gazette. The government says it aims to regulate online publications,

protect the country and combat disinformation. The article added to the Turkish penal code says spreading "misleading information" in a way that disturbs public peace is a crime. Engin Altay, a parliamentarian, said the CHP applied to annul it.

Autumn... (Continued From Page One)

of inflation, causing disruptions like canceled flights and trains. Thousands protested in Prague twice last month partly about high energy prices, airline workers have gone on strike in places like Germany and Sweden for higher pay as inflation rises. In the UK, everyone from nurses to rail employees have walked off the job to demand their wages keep pace with the rising cost of living.

Tuesday's protests in France come after the left-wing CGT union rejected a deal over a pay increase that oil giant TotalEnergies struck with two other unions Friday. Strikers demanded higher wages from the windfall profits of energy companies that have seen high oil and gas prices as Russia's war in Ukraine aggravates an energy crisis.

But the CGT rejected the deal, holding out for a 10% pay rise and called for continuing the protests. Long lines of cars have been seen for weeks across France as drivers waited — sometimes for hours — to fill up. Many gas stations have temporarily closed while awaiting deliveries.

Inflation has risen around the world as economies rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic and then got worse as the Ukraine war sent food and fuel prices soaring. French inflation has hit 6.2%, according to the European Union's statistics agency Eurostat. In comparison, Estonia saw consumer prices soar 24% last month from a year earlier, while the Netherlands' rate was 17% and the eurozone as a whole was 10%.

Russia... (Continued From Page One)

Reuters on Tuesday claimed that Iran had promised to provide Russia with surface to surface missiles, in addition to more drones. "The Russians had asked for more drones and those Iranian ballistic missiles with improved accuracy, particularly the Fateh and Zolfaghar missiles family," it said. Kuleba said Kyiv would send an official note to Occupied Palestine seeking immediate Israeli air defense supplies and cooperation in the sector. There was no immediate response from the Zionist regime to Kuleba's remarks. Earlier on Tuesday, a member of the occupying regime's decision-making security cabinet, minister Gideon Saar, told national broadcaster Army Radio: "Our support for Ukraine does not include weapons systems and weaponry - and there is no change to that position."

Envoy... (Continued From Page 2)

Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian on Monday censured the sanctions, calling them "superfluous" and "an unconstructive act out of miscalculation." "Down a well-worn path of ineffective sanctions, the EU today adopted further superfluous sanctions on Iranian persons. It is an unconstructive act out of miscalculation, based on widespread disinformation," Amir-Abdollahian said.

Later on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said the EU decision amounted to a violation of international law and constituted a brazen example of interference in the Islamic Republic's internal affairs, vowing reciprocal sanctions against European persons and entities. Protests over the death of Mahsa Amini erupted first in her native province of Kordestan and later in several cities, including the capital Tehran. Amini fainted at a police station and was pronounced dead in a hospital in Tehran three days later on September 16. Extremist elements soon derailed the protests and incited violence against security forces. Meanwhile, an investigation conducted by the Iranian parliament has concluded that Amini's death was not linked to alleged physical assault, but rather, she died of an illness. According to the report, the young woman was neither assaulted during her transfer to the police center in Tehran, where she fell into a coma, nor hit while being held there.

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

The UAE Foreign Ministry said the remarks were "inappropriate and discriminatory" and "contribute to a worsening climate of intolerance and discrimination worldwide." In a tweet on Tuesday, Qatari State Minister with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al Kawari said Borrell's statements have a racist and supremacist overtone and demonstrate a decadence of values and the moral poverty of European leadership.

Zionist... (Continued From Page 2)

the United States and the United Kingdom topping the list. The Middle East has faced a serious impediment, he said, adding that with the support of the United States, the Zionist regime not only defied international calls to accede to the NPT, but it also refused to join regional countries in the elaboration of a treaty establishing the Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. "Those weapons, in the possession of that aggressor, occupier, apartheid regime, and violator of international law, were increasingly harrowing," the Iranian diplomat asserted. He noted that the Tel Aviv regime has consistently threatened other countries with nuclear annihilation. Balouji also threw Iran's weight behind a proposal by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to conclude a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. He rejected all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, saying it served no purpose to reiterate that Iran should not develop them. Iran knows that the use of weapons of mass destruction is a violation of international law and a crime against humanity, he clarified. Zionists, which pursue a policy of deliberate ambiguity about their nuclear weapons program, are estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in their arsenal, making them the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in the Middle East region. The regime has, however, refused to either allow inspections of its military nuclear facilities by the IAEA or sign the NPT. What has emboldened Tel Aviv to accelerate its nuclear activities, according to observers, is the support that it receives from the United States and Europe, which are both highly critical of Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program.

All... (Continued From Page 2)

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has accused the U.S of trying "to steal from us a gigantic, modern cargo airplane". Iran has expertise in flying Boeing 747s because it has a number of them. These older planes are still flying and Iranian pilots have some unique expertise in keeping them aloft and extending their abilities. The Iranian pilot's son, Hussein Ghasemi, recently said that his father had flown with many airlines in the past and had flown to Dubai, Damascus, Paris and other cities. Since the sale of the plane, his father had been assigned by the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization to train Venezuelan pilots. He had spent a year training the Venezuelans and made various flights in South America.