

Russia: Terrorists Planning Drone Attack on Hmeimim Base in Syria

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – The Russian Defense Ministry says foreign-sponsored militants are planning to launch an attack against the country's strategic Hmeimim air base in the western Syrian coastal province of Latakia by means of kamikaze drones.

Deputy Chief of the Russian Reconnaissance Center for Syria Major General Oleg Yegorov said that the center had received information that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham terrorists together with members of the militant group Turkistan Islamic Party are plotting an aerial assault on the base with the use of combat unmanned aerial vehicles as well as suicide drones.

He added that the extremists have assembled and equipped a large number of drones, with an operational range of 70 kilometers, at workshops close to Khirbat al-Jawz town in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib.

Russia has been providing Syrian



Russian military aircraft and troops at the Hmeimim airbase near Syria's western coastal city of Latakia

forces with crucial military assistance in the ongoing battles across the conflict-plagued Arab country.

The Russian assistance, which began in September 2015 at the official request of the Syrian government, has proved effective as Syrians continue to recapture key areas

from remnants of the Daesh terrorist group and other foreign-backed terrorist factions.

Meanwhile, Syrian government troops blocked a U.S. military convoy as it was attempting to pass through a community in the northeastern province of Hasakah.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that Syrian army troops, deployed at a security checkpoint near Umm al-Khair village in the Tal Tamer subdistrict, intercepted the convoy of six armored vehicles on Friday.

The American troops were subsequently forced to turn around and go back in the direction they came from. There were no reports of clashes or injuries.

The U.S. military has for long stationed its forces and equipment in northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, maintains the deployment is meant to plunder the country's natural resources. Former U.S. president Donald Trump admitted on several occasions that American forces were in the Arab country for its oil wealth.

Qatar's FM Denounces 'Hypocrisy' of Criticism Over World Cup 2022

DOHA (Middle East Eye) – Qatar's foreign minister has condemned "hypocrisy" from those criticizing the country over alleged human rights abuses ahead of its hosting of the World Cup later this month.

Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani told Le Monde that "attacks" were being made by a minority of people, with critical European countries amongst those buying the most tickets.

"There is a lot of hypocrisy in these attacks, which ignore all that we have achieved," said Thani, who also serves as depu-

ty prime minister.

"They are being peddled by a very small number of people, in ten countries at most, who are not at all representative of the rest of the world. It is frankly unfortunate.

"The reality is that the world is looking forward to this celebration. Over 97 percent of the tickets have been sold. Among the ten countries that bought the most tickets, we find European countries like France."

Doha has faced a slew of bad headlines over its treatment of migrant workers, with days

to go until it becomes the first Middle Eastern country to host the tournament.

Several French cities, including Paris, announced earlier this year that they would not broadcast the tournament on large screens as a protest against the Qatari record on the environment and human rights.

However, despite this criticism, France has signed a partnership with Qatar to provide security personnel at the World Cup, a decision that has attracted some criticism from French media.

The Qatari foreign minister's comments come as football's governing body FIFA wrote to all 32 teams competing at the World Cup, urging them to focus on football rather than political "battles".

"We know football does not live in a vacuum, and we are equally aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world," it said.

"But please do not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle that exists."

Russia Warns Zionist Regime of Retaliation If It Supplies Military Aid to Ukraine

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia has warned that it will take retaliatory measures against the Zionist regime in case the regime supplies Ukraine with military equipment and aid amid the military conflict there.

Bloomberg television news network, citing two unnamed sources familiar with Russian policy, reported that Moscow would respond if the regime passed along missile systems directly or through a third party to Ukraine.

The Zionist regime seems to be warming to the idea of supplying military equipment to Ukraine.

However, the coming change of

administration in the Israeli-occupied territories leaves future policy under question. Benjamin Netanyahu, who is expected to form the next cabinet in the occupied territories, has been known for his good relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Bloomberg report follows remarks made by former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev last month, who said the regime would "destroy" all ties with Moscow if it insists on the "very reckless move" of supplying Ukraine with weapons.

The Israeli regime's diaspora af-

fairs minister Nachman Shai said on October 17 that the "time has come for Ukraine to receive military aid" from the regime.

"Israel seems to be going to supply weapons to the Kiev regime; a very reckless move. It will destroy all interstate relations between" Moscow and Tel Aviv, Medvedev, currently serving as deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council, later wrote in a Telegram post in response, saying that Ukraine is praising "Nazi" heroes.

"If they are supplied with weapons then it is time for Israel to declare [Stepan] Bandera and [Ro-

man] Shukhevych their heroes," the senior Russian politician added, referring to Ukraine's nationalist leaders of the 1940s and 1950s.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky told Channel 12's "Uvda" that the regime recently agreed to provide his country with radio systems it had requested in February.

On Sunday, Ukraine's Ambassador to the occupied territories Yevgen Korniychuk also said there had been progress "on some technical issues" related to military cooperation between Kiev and Tel Aviv, particularly regarding Israel's offer to provide missile alert technology.

Opium...

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offshoot of Daesh, and are seeking to avail themselves of the extremists to alienate Afghanistan's neighboring states from Moscow," Kabulov said.

"While the United States, as part of a political blackmail, is placing the Taliban leaders under pressure to dissociate themselves from Russia and China, it is demanding Afghanistan's ruling authorities not to take any action against Uyghur insurgents, who form the militant organization Turkistan Islamic Party," the Russian diplomat noted.

U.S. ...

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He declared that Washington's support for the Lebanese army comes within the U.S. strategy to confront the Lebanese resistance group, Hezbollah, which was successful in kicking out Israeli occupation from Lebanese territory in 2000.

Also back in July 2010, former U.S. assistant secretary of state Jeffrey Feltman revealed that after Lebanon's 2006 war, the U.S. invested \$500 million to demonize Hezbollah's image using the media and to drive people away from the party.

Hezbollah, the only party in the region that was able to defeat the Zionist regime, which is the U.S.' top ally, has been a core American target since the party was founded in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Iran...

(Continued From Page 2)

U.S. to show genuine resolve and goodwill in the talks without looking for an excuse for the breach of its commitments.

He reassured Iran's firm determination to restore its absolute right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in all forms, including uranium enrichment, while reiterating that Tehran is committed to the continuation of talks on the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with goodwill and on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Elsewhere in his comments, Amir-Abdollahian noted that producing and publishing disinformation and misleading news on the internet against nations and governments is in complete contradiction to the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

Touching on the ongoing Israeli aggressions in occupied Palestine, the Iranian FM stressed that "undoubtedly, the most important violator of international law and which causes destruction and killing in the region is the Israeli regime."

"Occupying Palestine and parts of the lands of other Arab countries and depriving the oppressed Palestinian people of their inalienable and inherent rights, violating and disregarding the resolutions issued by various international organizations including the United Nations are among the illegal actions that this regime has carried out since its formation until now."

He underscored that governments and international organizations cannot and should not remain silent in face of a regime that repeatedly and continuously commits major international crimes.

Three...

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security forces had defused a bomb in Shiraz that was set to detonate concurrent with the shooting at the shrine. He said an individual had placed "explosives with high destructive power in a bag and sought to detonate it in one of the busiest areas of Shiraz" where riots were held. The forces at the scene, he said, arrested the individual and defused the bomb in the shortest time possible.

Riots broke out in Iran last month after a young Iranian woman, identified as Mahsa Amini, died. The 22-year-old fainted at a police station in the capital Tehran and was later pronounced dead at a hospital. An official report by Iran's Legal Medicine Organization said that Amini's controversial death was caused by an illness rather than alleged "blows to the head" or other vital body organs.

The rioters have been gliding on a rampage across the country, attacking security officers, resorting to vandalizing public property, and desecrating religious sanctities.

UN...

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views "this responsible action as a sig-

nificant and encouraging step in taking the United Nations towards a consistent and non-discriminatory approach to combat terrorism."

A heavily-armed terrorist assaulted the well-known shrine at approximately 5:45 p.m. local time (1415 GMT) on that October day, just before the evening prayers, killing more than a dozen pilgrims — including a lady and two children — and injuring at least 40 others. The attacker opened fire indiscriminately on visitors within the shrine, according to the police commander of Fars province. The perpetrator was wounded and taken into custody by security personnel. He later succumbed to his wounds. Shortly afterward, the Daesh terror group claimed responsibility for the attack.

As a victim of terrorism, Amir-Abdollahian said, Iran is determined in "its efforts in the fight against terrorism, both to protect the security of the region's nations and the honorable and great nation of Iran from the dangers posed by such terrorist groups."

The Shiraz terrorist attack proved "the significance of the bravery of" Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in fighting terrorism and the importance of maintaining "ongoing, successful efforts in the region to eradicate terrorism," said the minister, reminding the international community that "its sensitivity and vigilance toward terrorist threats should not be compromised."

While the UNSC failed to condemn the terrorist attack, it held an unofficial meeting at the request of the U.S. and Albania to discuss recent riots in Iran, a move that the Iranian Foreign Ministry described as "a clear example of the abuse of international mechanisms by the American government for its illegal purposes and meddling in internal affairs of other states."

Comrades...

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On a related note, a Basij officer told Al-Mayadeen that "foreign players who meddle in Iranian internal affairs have been training rioters to target people and centers belonging to the Basij and the Revolution."

He added that some of the protesters are not thugs and have the right to protest, but the protests were hijacked and exploited to carry out Western agendas and cause damage to Iran's security and stability.

"There are trained persons, however, who are worse than Daesh terrorists. They are trying to carry out heinous crimes in Iran, worse and more violent than the ones we witnessed in Syria and Iraq. We will confront them," he said.

He called on the Iranians to open their eyes to the violent nature of the thugs and rioters and to be vigilant against Western-backed attempts to turn Iran into chaos.

Arman's torn-out clothes and his silver ring that was broken due to severe beating and torture have been put on display at the headquarters in memory of the young Basiji man.

The thugs, who have killed dozens so far, claim to be "advocates" of freedom of thought, belief, and religion; freedom of speech; and freedom of expression. Videos on social media show how violent rioters have been going on a rampage across the country, attacking security officers and people who have religious looks, women wearing the full hijab or Iranian chador which is a traditional and conservative outfit, resorting to vandalism against public property, and desecrating religious sanctities.

Many peaceful protesters backed off and retreated in fear for their lives, after realizing that this is yet another plot to cause unrest in Iran. Meanwhile, millions of Iranians took part in rallies that were held in 900 cities on Friday, including in the capital Tehran where demonstrators strongly condemned the hostile policies of the U.S. and some other Western and Arab regimes against Iran, which displayed unity among Iranians.

Dual standards remain crystal clear, showing how Western media coverage is biased. At the time Western media outlets cover fake news and circulate disinformation on Iran, they do not provide any media coverage to the violence and damage caused by the violent rioters, including the violent killing of Aliverdi, in an attempt to create an "anti-Iran" intended rhetoric, sabotage the image of Iran, and meddle in its internal affairs.

While violent rioters and agents carried out Western commands on the pretext of Mahsa Amini's death, which sparked weeks of riots, killings, and sabotage and were covered by Western media 24/7, the reaction of the same Western media outlets to Arman's brutal death was a media blackout.

Egypt 'Bulldozing' UNESCO World Heritage Site 100km From Cop27 Summit

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – As government-paid bulldozers razed a local cemetery in the winter of 2021 in Egypt's South Sinai, members of the indigenous Jabaleyya tribe stood watching in disbelief.

"People spent the entire night picking the remains of their dead relatives from what the bulldozers have done," said Mohannad Sabry, an author and researcher who has written extensively on Egypt's Sinai peninsula.

The destruction of the cemetery was to pave the way for construction that is part of the Great Transfiguration Project, officially launched by the Egyptian government in March 2021 with the stated aim of turning South Sinai into a tourism hub.

But the majority of the project, which is roughly 70 percent complete, is to be housed in the St Catherine nature reserve, a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site that includes the ancient

St Catherine's Monastery and Mount Sinai, a site revered by followers of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The monastery stands at the foot of Mount Horeb, where, according to the Old Testament, Moses received the Tablets of the Law. The mountain is revered by Muslims as Jebel Musa.

A number of experts, including Sabry, have accused the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, which is overseeing the project, of violating World Heritage Site regulations by carrying out construction they say will undermine the historic and religious character of the city, as well as expelling the indigenous Bedouin population - with no published plans for compensation.

Egyptian government officials have previously refuted the claims in statements to Middle East Eye, insisting the project will not harm the heritage of the city and its surrounding environment.

But John Grainger, former EU project manager for the nature reserve, the St Catherine Protectorate, between 1996 and 2003, signed - along with Sabry - an open letter in March stating that the current project violates UNESCO's criteria for a World Heritage Site and that the plan should mean the reserve is placed on the World Heritage in Danger list.

"We're talking about tens of thousands of cubic meters of concrete," Sabry told MEE.

The new buildings include at least five hotels and hundreds of villas and private houses.

Sabry, the author of Sinai: Egypt's Linchpin, Gaza's Lifeline, Israel's Nightmare, said the project is being carried out at the expense of the local Jabaleyya tribe, the original inhabitants of the city, known historically as the Guardians of St Catherine. All Bedouin houses that stood in the way of construction have been razed, he said, and residents turfed out.