

Syria Renews Call to Stop Zionist Aggression in Occupied Territories

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syria has renewed its call for the establishment of a new international order that would pay great respect to the Charter of the United Nations, and would effectively put an end to the arbitrary measures and criminal practices of the Zionist regime in the occupied Arab territories.

Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, in a statement, commemorated the United Nations Day, which is observed on 24 October annually, noting that the Arab country was among the first countries that contributed to the drafting of the foundational treaty of the UN, which was signed on June 26, 1945, and came into force on October 24 that year.

It added that the international community, beset with the atrocities committed by Germany’s Nazi regime and fascist forces during the World War II, drew up the UN Charter to prevent wars and military aggression, and to endorse the inad-



Syria’s air defenses intercepting incoming missiles during a Zionist airstrike against the Arab country.

missibility of interference in the domestic affairs of countries.

The measure was aimed at the establishment of a world based on the principles of justice and equality for all, the Syrian foreign ministry pointed out.

“Unfortunately, Western countries’ unfaithfulness to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, their aggressive and

colonial policies as well as double standards, along with their looting of developing countries’ natural wealth has undermined the basic role of the intergovernmental organization,” the statement read.

“Syria repeats its calls for the establishment of a new international order that respects the Charter of the United Nations,

ends the policies of colonial and hegemonic powers, puts an end to the practices and crimes committed by Israel in the occupied Arab lands, and paves the way for a new world in which nations enjoy their rights,” the Syrian ministry concluded.

The Zionist regime carried out an airstrike on military posts in the suburbs of the Syrian capital Damascus on Monday, wounding a soldier and damaging property.

According to a Syrian military source, the barrage of rockets was fired from the northern part of the occupied Palestinian territories at about 2:00 pm local time.

The source told Syria’s official news agency SANA that “the army air defenses intercepted the missiles and downed most of them.”

The afternoon attack came three days after a similar strike on Damascus suburbs caused property damage.

administration. Nonetheless, they have found widespread acceptance, helping fuel a cottage industry of poll-watching tools.

One software application heavily promoted by far-right media organizations lets users view a map of reported polling station problems and abnormalities in vote counts. Conservative activists have set up a hotline to collect similar reports.

The Reuters/Ipsos online poll gathered responses from 4,413 U.S. adults nationwide and had a credibility interval, a measure of precision, of between 2 and 5 percentage points.

Saudi... (Continued From Page One)

“In terms of great power competition, this very much seems to be the lens with which this administration is viewing much of its foreign policy, including in the Middle East and North Africa and with its relationship to Saudi Arabia.”

And now, even as the administration turns its sights to what it perceives to be a Saudi alignment with Russia, the kingdom continues to commit human rights abuses with little U.S. attention.

Saudi Arabia sentenced three tribesmen to death for resisting displacement after their tribe was forcibly removed to make way for the \$500 billion Neom megacity. And Saudi American Saad Ibrahim Almadi was sentenced to 16 years in prison for his tweets. The State Department said it “consistently and intensively raised our concerns regarding the case” of Almadi. “Human rights was not a priority. I think it was campaign promises. It’s a good thing to say during campaigns. This is what people want to hear. And once they’re in office, what they see as more important to interests are prioritized, including oil and arms sales,” Lina al-Hathloul, prominent Saudi rights activist and sister of Loujain al-Hathloul, told MEE.

In March, the Saudi Press Agency announced that the government had executed 81 people in a single day, a stark contrast to Riyadh’s announcement in January.

The Biden administration did say in February 2021 that it would no longer support offensive “operations” in the Saudi-led war on Yemen, but lawmakers have raised concerns over whether that distinction actually stops weapons and support going to the Saudi military.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine led to a sharp rise in the price of oil in global markets, prompting the U.S. president to travel to Saudi Arabia, where he met with and bumped fists with the Saudi crown prince in the coastal city of Jeddah.

No serious calls to look at the U.S.-Saudi relationship came from the Biden administration until the Opec+ decision in early October.

“It’s not an opinion, it’s just the reality. Unfortunately, the Biden administration didn’t use the leverage it had when it comes to pressuring Saudi,” said Hathloul.

The Biden administration’s approach to Saudi Arabia over the past two years has been quite different from its predecessor, the Donald Trump administration, but much of this had to do with rhetoric.

Trump was transparent in how he approached Riyadh and the Saudi crown prince. His first trip abroad as president was to Saudi Arabia, breaking a long-standing tradition of U.S. presidents using their first foreign visit to meet one of their neighbors in Mexico or Canada.

The visit will be long remembered for the photo of Trump alongside Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi placing their hands on a glowing white orb.

Then, when Muhammad bin Salman visited the White House in 2018, he and Trump sat in the Oval Office and the U.S. president handed the crown prince a poster showing a graphic of U.S. arms sales to the kingdom - a clear sign of how Trump viewed the relationship.

“I know [senators] are talking about different kinds of sanctions, but they’re [Saudi Arabia] spending \$110 billion on military equipment and on things that create jobs,” Trump said in remarks to reporters on 11 October 2018, days after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

“I don’t like the concept of stopping an investment of \$110 billion into the United States.”

Seth Binder, advocacy director at the Project on Middle East Democrac, noted that rhetoric does in certain areas “make a difference”. However, soon it was clear that the Biden administration really was similar to Trump, in that energy was a driving factor to the US-Saudi re-

lationship.

“In essence, [the Saudis] called the administration’s bluff and the administration folded their cards,” Binder said.

“When it came to any tangible costs to the relationship, what you saw was an effort culminating in the Jeddah trip to repair ties and get back to the way things used to be under the Trump administration and under previous administrations.”

The outrage in Washington has led to several calls from lawmakers, including Senator Bob Menendez who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to halt arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Raisi ... (Continued From Page One)

of regional cooperation as the best way to address the problems, Raisi said, “Foreign interference in the regional affairs has not only not solved any problem, but has always created troubles.”

Iran has been always a friend of its neighbors in hard days, the president stated, noting that the relations between Iran and Kuwait are deep-rooted and based on faith and cultures of the two nations.

He went on to say that Iran and Kuwait can employ their capacities to increase the level of economic and trade cooperation by several times the current state.

For his part, the new Kuwaiti ambassador said he had started his mission to Tehran in order to strengthen relations between the two countries and open up new vistas for bilateral ties.

Separately, President Raisi described closer relations among independent states as a way to nullify the foreign sanctions.

“The sanctions have not stopped and won’t stop us by any means,” he told Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei here.

“Today, Iran is stronger than ever, and increased U.S. hostilities towards the Islamic Republic are because of Iran’s growing power.”

Raisi highlighted capacities for cooperation in the fields of the energy industry and heavy machinery between Iran and Belarus, saying joint economic meetings signify the two nations’ determination to enhance relations.

Makei said the roadmap for expansion of relations between the two countries has been finalized by the Iran-Belarus cooperation joint commission and its implementation will result in the stable promotion of bilateral cooperation.

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

and besieged Gaza Strip since the beginning of the year, including 51 Palestinians during Israel’s three-day assault on Gaza in August, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Local and international rights groups have condemned the occupying regime of Israel’s excessive use of force and “shoot-to-kill policy” against Palestinians.

Ambassador... (Continued From Page 2)

conditions in the country are still appalling, “causing a significant impact on the Syrian people. In many areas, more needs to be done to alleviate their suffering.”

Iravani also underlined the importance of humanitarian assistance to Syria, stating that unhindered, fast and safe provision of humanitarian aid to people hit by the ongoing foreign-sponsored conflict should be given a priority.

He went on to stress the need for the elimination of terrorists in Syria and the removal of cruel and illegal sanctions against the country.

“We support the Syrian government’s full cooperation with the United Nations and humanitarian organizations involved in delivering aid in Syria, and in this context, we applaud the Syrian Government’s efforts to improve the humanitarian situation on the ground, including by providing assistance to the UN to enhance the delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need, and to implement early recovery projects mandated by the resolution 2642,” Iravani added.

“Moreover, the ongoing efforts to effectively implement resolution 2642 must be accelerated and focused on the early recovery projects essential for people, such as electricity, water, sanitation, health, education, and shelter,” he said.

He also reiterated the Islamic Republic’s position that the ongoing crisis in Syria can only be resolved by concentrating on political solutions, calling on the United Nations to facilitate a genuine intra-Syrian political dialog.

UN Issues Grim Climate Report Ahead of Egypt COP27 Conference

CAIRO (Al Jazeera) – A new report by the United Nations has warned that the climate plans from governments worldwide remain insufficient to limit rising temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius as set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

With the planet already suffering from climate-related storms, heatwaves and floods amid temperatures of 1.2C above pre-industrial levels, the UN’s climate experts said on Wednesday the world was still failing to act with sufficient urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

“We are still nowhere near the scale and pace of emission reductions required to put us on track toward a 1.5 degrees Celsius world,” Simon Stiell, executive secretary of UN Climate Change, said in a statement.

“To keep this goal alive, national governments need to strengthen their climate action plans now and implement them in the next eight years.”

The UN’s climate experts have said emissions, compared with 2010 levels, need to fall by 43 percent by 2030 in order to meet the Paris deal’s goal.

But in its latest report, the UN said current commitments from governments will, in fact, increase emissions by 10.6 percent by 2030.

However, the report found that this was “an improvement” over last year’s assessment, which said the countries were on a path to increase emissions by 13.7 percent by 2030.

Stiell said that while all countries agreed to revisit and strengthen

their climate plans last year at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) – a global event to address the climate crisis – only 24 nations provided updated or new climate plans since then, calling it “disappointing”.

“Government decisions and actions must reflect the level of urgency, the gravity of the threats we are facing, and the shortness of the time we have remaining to avoid the devastating consequences of runaway climate change.”

The 24 countries include Bolivia, Vanuatu and Uganda, as well as the large emitter nations of India and Indonesia. The latter, which sees most emissions come from deforestation and peatland clearance, now says it will cut emissions levels by at least 31.89 percent by 2030.

Turkish Doctor Detained for Proposing Chemical Weapons Probe

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) – Police detained the president of the Turkish Medical Association after she called for an independent investigation into allegations that the Turkish military used chemical weapons against Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, Turkish media reported Wednesday.

Dr. Sebnem Korur Fincanci, 63, was detained on charges of disseminating “terrorist propaganda” as part of an investigation launched by anti-terrorism police, according to the Ankara chief prosecutor’s office.

The prosecutor’s office said it has also asked a court for her dismissal as president of the association.

Fincanci, a forensic expert, has spent much of her career documenting torture and ill-treatment, and is a leading human rights activist in Turkey. She has served as president of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey.

State-run Anadolu news agency and other media reported that she was detained in Istanbul following an early morning raid at her home and was being brought to Ankara for questioning.

Last week, Turkish officials strongly rejected allegations by Kurdish militants that the Turkish military used chemical weapons against the

banned Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, in northern Iraq, insisting the military doesn’t have such weapons in its inventory.

In comments to a pro-Kurdish news outlet, Fincanci said she inspected a video purporting to show the use of chemical weapons and called for an “effective investigation.” She later clarified in an interview with the Turkish-language Independent news website, that she did not say she believed chemical weapons were used.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused her of slandering Turkey’s armed forces and of insulting her country “by speaking the language of the terrorist organization.”

He vowed to take actions to clear the Turkish Medical Association and other professional organizations of “supporters of the terrorist organization.”

Devlet Bahceli, the leader of a nationalist party that is allied with Erdogan’s ruling party, also severely criticized Fincanci during a speech on Tuesday, demanding that she be stripped of her Turkish citizenship and the association shut down.

- harbored the same concerns.

About a fifth of voters - including one in 10 Democrats and one in four Republicans - said they were not confident their ballots would be accurately counted.

Fired up by his false fraud claims, thousands of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

While voter rights advocates accuse far-right groups who believe those claims of sending poll watchers to intimidate minority voters aligned with the Democratic Party, U.S. conservative media highlight left-wing violence, frequently tying Democrats to riots sparked by the 2020 murder of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white police officer in Minneapolis.

Some two-thirds of registered voters - 67% - said they were concerned extrem-

ists will commit acts of violence after the election, including about three in four registered Democrats and three in five registered Republicans.

More than 10 million people have already cast ballots in the contests that will shape the rest of Democratic President Joe Biden’s term.

Republican control of either chamber of Congress would effectively torpedo Biden’s agenda.

About two-thirds of Republicans and one-third of Democrats think voter fraud is a widespread problem, the Reuters/Ipsos poll found. Two-thirds of Republicans think the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Trump.

Trump’s claims of fraud were dismissed by dozens of U.S. courts, state reviews and multiple members of his

Iran... (Continued From Page One)

been used in the Ukraine war, inviting Ukrainian authorities to attend a bilateral meeting of experts and present any evidence supporting the accusation.

For his part, Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei stressed the need for proper measures by Belarus and Iran in response to the Western sanctions.

Americans... (Continued From Page One)

said fears of voter intimidation and violence run counter to American tradition.