

DOHA (Al Jazeera) – Qatar and Bahrain are resolving a years-long dispute and restoring diplomatic ties. Delegates from the two countries have met at the headquarters of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) General Secretariat in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, the countries' foreign ministries said in separate statements. Both sides met to "enhance the Persian Gulf unity and integration according to the GCC Charter". Qatar's foreign ministry said in its statement. Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary-General Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met with Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Political Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa to discuss resolving a feud that dates back to 2017.

If a man sees even a tiny gleam of success, then greed forces him to humiliate himself. If he gives way to avarice, then inordinate desires ruin him. If he is disappointed, then despondency almost kills him. If he is excited, then he loses temper and gets angry. If he is pleased, then he gives up precaution.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Resistance Leaders Reiterate Liberation of Palestine

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement says International Quds Day constitutes the main part of the struggle for liberation of the occupied Palestinian territories from the clutches of the apartheid Zionist regime.

Speaking in a televised speech on the eve of International Quds Day, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated that the event comprises the integral component of the Muslim world's battle to liberate Al-Quds and entire Palestinian lands.

Nasrallah said that the Axis of Resistance is at the forefront of such a campaign, emphasizing the centrality of Al-Quds throughout the struggle.

"Many developments took place this year both at international and regional arenas as well as inside the Israeli-occupied lands, which were in favor of the Axis of Resistance and its battle against the occupying Israeli regime and the U.S. hegemony," the Hezbollah chief said.

Nasrallah highlighted that the world is moving towards the formation of a multi-polar system that will end the bipolar hegemony of the United States.

Nasrallah stated that Hezbollah has gloriously and proudly emerged triumphant over problems in the past years, describing the extent of internal crises that the Zionist regime is



International Quds Day, which is set to be held on April 14, is observed all around the Muslim world.

currently facing as unprecedented since 1948.

He noted that Palestinians in the West Bank are at the forefront of defending Islamic and Christian sanctities, emphasizing that special emphasis must be laid on providing generous support to resistance fighters in the occupied territory.

Moreover, the leader of the Gaza-based Islamic Jihad resistance movement said, "International Quds Day summarizes history and geography, and is an occasion when the Muslim Ummah displays its absolute certainty of the liberation of Palestine, Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Ziad al-Nakhalah expressed serious concern over the persistent oppression and bloodshed in Al-Quds

and the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, arguing that Zionist occupiers are constantly trampling on the sanctities of the Palestinian nation.

Nakhalah then called on Arab and Muslim nations to broaden their understanding of the status quo in the Palestinian territories, and join resistance groups in the fight against the usurping Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, the leader of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement called for concerted efforts to expel Zionists from the occupied Palestinian lands, terming severance of diplomatic relations and struggle against the occupying Israeli regime as a religious and humanitarian duty.

"Imam Khomeini designated the last Friday of the holy month of Ra-

madan as International Quds Day in order to keep the issue of Palestine alive in the hearts and minds of all Muslims," Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said in a televised speech broadcast live from the Yemeni capital city of Sana'a on Thursday evening.

Houthi stated that the Yemeni nation has not retreated from its position to support the Palestinian nation, saying, "Our nation is trying to fulfill its religious duty and participate with Muslim freedom fighters in the decisive war against the Zionist enemy."

He stated that the battle against the Zionist regime and U.S. hegemony forms the cornerstone of Islamic teachings, noting that the fight against Zionism is an important factor in the rise of the Muslim world.

The leader of Ansarullah stated that the Zionists are afraid of the uprising of Muslim nations and their mobilization.

Houthi pointed out that the spirit of resistance within the Palestinian nation and the steadfastness of Muslim nations have started the countdown to the collapse of the Zionist regime.

He emphasized that the Zionist enemy is moving towards destruction and inescapable downfall.

International Quds Day falls on the last Friday of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, which was named by Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic more than four decades ago.

Arab Nations Gather to Discuss Bringing Syria Back to Fold



Members participate in an Arab League summit on February 12, 2023.

JEDDAH (Dispatches) – Arab countries gathered in Jeddah on Friday to discuss ending Syria's long spell of futile diplomatic isolation, as regional relations shift following Saudi Arabia and Iran's decision to resume ties.

Ministers and top officials from the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- plus Egypt, Iraq and Jordan meet at Saudi Arabia's request.

Up for discussion in the Red Sea city is Syria's suspension from the Arab League, imposed since the start of the foreign-backed war in the country in 2011.

On Wednesday, in the latest sign of an easing in tensions with Damascus, Syria's Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad arrived in Jeddah, the first such visit since the war began.

Mekdad and his Saudi counterpart discussed "the necessary steps" to end Damascus's isolation, according to a Saudi statement.

The Jeddah meeting is one in a flurry of initiatives following Saudi Arabia and Iran's landmark, Chinese-brokered announcement on March 10 that they would resume ties, seven years after an ac-

rimonious split.

Mekdad and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud have called for an end to foreign military presence on Syrian oil and West's interventions in the Arab country.

In a joint statement issued following a meeting between the two top diplomats, both sides agreed to resume consular services and direct flights between Damascus and Riyadh, and work with each other to beef up regional security and combat all forms of terrorism.

Both sides also agreed on the need for the Syrian state to assert its control over all its territories and end the presence of all foreign forces.

The U.S. military has stationed its forces and equipment in north-eastern Syria without the Syrian government's consent, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment aims to prevent the oil fields in the area from falling into the hands of the Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, says the U.S. deployment is aimed at plundering Syria'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.

Zionist Spyware Firm QuaDream Linked to Hacks on Journalists, Politicians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A spyware made by the Zionist regime resembling the controversial Pegasus program has been used to target journalists and opposition politicians in at least ten countries around the world, researchers have found.

The little-known Israeli vendor named QuaDream, which markets spyware under the name "Reign", was established by a former Zionist military official and veterans of the NSO Group, the creator of Pegasus, cybersecurity researchers from Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto said.

According to the researchers,

QuaDream prefers to keep a low profile and has largely avoided the limelight, in contrast with its competitor, the Zionist regime's NSO Group.

Unlike the NSO Group, which was blacklisted by the U.S. in 2021 for its ties to illegal surveillance programs, QuaDream has escaped scrutiny, until now.

Reign's "Premium Collection" capabilities included "real-time call recordings, camera activation - front and back," and "microphone activation," according to a company brochure uncovered by Citizen Lab.

QuaDream has sold its products

to a range of government clients including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and Ghana, and has pitched its services to Indonesia and Morocco.

As part of its strategy to avoid the pitfalls that the NSO Group faced, QuaDream operates with a minimal public presence, meaning no website, no media coverage, and no social media presence.

The attacks launched by QuaDream compromised phones running iOS 14, a state-of-the-art iPhone operating system, between 2020 and 2021.

The attacks were connected to calendar invitations and worked

without user interaction, which is considered as a "zero click" attack.

"The firm has common roots with NSO Group, as well as other companies in the Israeli commercial spyware industry, and the Israeli intelligence agencies," Citizen Lab said.

Last year Reuters reported that NSO and Reign at one point both exploited the same iOS bug to hack into devices.

The occupying regime has faced repeated criticism and diplomatic pressure over spyware and other cyber weapons being developed in the occupied territories.

HRW: UAE Holding Prisoners for Years After Serving Sentences

DUBAI (MEMO) – Prisoners in the UAE are being held beyond their sentences, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has revealed, adding in some instances, the inmates have been held for four years after completing their sentence.

The prisoners are all part of the infamous case known as UAE94, in which critics of the authoritarian regime were sentenced during a mass trial. At least 51 prisoners who have completed their sentences remain behind bars.

"Prisoners in the UAE94 case have already suffered tremendously after years in prison following a grossly unfair trial," explained Joey Shea, UAE researcher at HRW. "The Emirati authorities should free them immediately and finally put an end to this decade-long ordeal. Prominent UAE partners, including the United States and COP28 organizers, should press the UAE authorities for their im-

mediate release."

The prisoners were among 94 people detained from March 2012 in a wave of arbitrary arrests amid an unprecedented crackdown on dissent in the sheikhdom. Many of the defendants were arrested solely because they were affiliated with a non-violent political group, the Reform and Social Guidance Association (al-Islah), which advocated greater adherence to Islamic precepts and engaged in peaceful political debate in the UAE for years.

The case, said HRW, had a chilling effect on freedom of expression and the right to assembly and association. In July 2013, Abu Dhabi's Federal Supreme Court sentenced 69 of the defendants: five to seven years in prison, 56 to 10 years, and eight in absentia to 15 years, with 25 acquitted. As of last month, 51 had completed their sentences but remain imprisoned with no

clear legal basis. Some prisoners are said to have completed their sentences as early as July 2019.

The rights group said that Abu Dhabi is using its repressive counterterrorism law to hold prisoners after the completion of their sentences. "The law appears to permit indefinite detention for prisoners who continue to pose a 'terrorist threat,' which the law does not clearly define," said HRW.

The counterterrorism law sets no time limit for continued incarceration and instead requires the state security public prosecution to report to the court every three months. The court may order a person's release if it finds that "his or her condition so allows." It is not clear if the defendant has any right to attend the hearing or see or challenge the evidence used to justify their detention.

Iraqi Cleric Announces Suspension of His Movement

BAGHDAD (AP/AFP) – Influential Iraqi cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr announced on Friday that he would suspend the movement he leads for one year, citing "corruption" among some of his followers.

On Friday, Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council announced that an investigative court had ordered the arrest of 65 alleged members of the "Owners of the Cause," a group within his Sadrist movement, which it described as a disruptive "gang."

In a statement posted on his Twitter account, al-Sadr said, "I want to be a reformer for Iraq, and I cannot reform the Sadrist movement." He added that he will freeze all activities of the movement — except for religious activities such as Friday prayers.

Al-Sadr resigned from politics last August, following a nearly yearlong deadlock in the formation of a new cabinet. His party won the largest share of seats in the October 2021 parliamentary elections, but not enough to secure a majority government.

Al-Sadr's refusal to negotiate with his rivals and his subsequent

exit from the talks catapulted the country into political uncertainty and volatility amid intensifying wrangling.

After al-Sadr announced his resignation from politics, hundreds of his angry followers stormed the government palace and clashed with security forces. At least 15 protesters were killed.

Al-Sadr had won a mass base of followers, many of whom hail from Iraq's poorest sectors of society, with nationalist rhetoric and promises of reform.

His rise was aided by the reputation of his father, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadek Sadr, whom former dictator Saddam Hussein had assassinated in 1999.

The mausoleum in the city of Najaf where his father is buried would remain closed through the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan that ends later in April, according to Sadr's statement.

"And it is a serious issue to continue leading the Sadrist movement as it includes... some corrupt elements" within it, he said.