

Israel Settlers Steal Over 400 Sheep from Palestinians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Groups of illegal settlers stole more than 400 sheep from Palestinians in Masafer Yatta, south of Al-Khalil, Ma'an reported.

The coordinator of the Popular Committees Against the Wall and Settlement in southern Al-Khalil, Rateb Al-Jabour told Ma'an that the sheep were taken while grazing in pastures.

Additionally, the occupation army destroyed the main water pipeline that supplies the Palestinian village of Susiya.

PM: Iraq No Longer Needs U.S. Forces

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani has reiterated that Iraq does not need military forces from 25 countries to work within the mission of the U.S.-led international coalition allegedly to fight the Daesh terrorist group.

Al-Sudani made the comments during a press conference, in which he stressed that the Iraqi government began an integrated program to improve the armament of the security forces in conjunction with seeking to end the presence of the foreign in the country.

The justifications for the foreign forces' existence in 2014 have ended today, and "we are in the year 2024," al-Sudani said.

He said that the Daesh group no longer poses a threat to Iraq's security, adding that the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces have improved significantly and it can now maintain security throughout the country.



Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani says his country does not need U.S.-led military forces.

Al-Sudani stressed that the government hopes to move to a new phase of relations with other countries, including the economic, political and security aspects.

Al-Sudani's comment came as Iraq and the U.S.-led coalition held on Feb. 11 a new round of dialogue to discuss ending the coalition's mission in Iraq.

Daesh began a campaign of terror in Iraq in 2014, overrunning vast swathes in lightning attacks. Iraq declared victory over the group in December 2017, after a three-year counterterrorism endeavor, which also had the support of Iran. The terror outfit's remnants, though, keep staging sporadic attacks across Iraq, in an attempt to regroup.

There are various reports that the U.S. occupation forces have on multiple occasions been transporting Daesh members to safe havens in Iraq and providing logistics for the terror outfit.

Hundreds of U.S. troops still remain inside the Arab country in what Washington describes as an "advisory" mission. U.S. President Joe Biden and Iraq's then-Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi declared in July 2021 that the U.S. mission in Iraq would transition from combat to an "advisory" role by the end of that year.

After the 2020 assassination of Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Units, along with the region's legendary anti-terror commander, Iran's Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, Iraqi lawmakers ratified a bill that required the government to end the presence of all foreign military forces led by the U.S.

Retired Israeli Officials Warn Against Al-Aqsa Restrictions During Ramadan



The Dome of the Rock at Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Al-Quds, on 20 February 2024

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – A group of retired Israeli officials have warned against placing restrictions at Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan, warning it could lead to "escalation and disturbances on a wide scale".

In a letter addressed to the regime and intelligence officials, a group of "retired commissioners and superintendents" warned that plans to restrict Palestinians from accessing the Al-Quds holy site would be highly dangerous.

"The exclusion of the Arabs from going up to pray on the Temple Mount could lead to escalation and disturbances on a wide scale," read the letter, obtained by Channel 12.

"The recommendations of the minister of (so-called) national security are motivated by ideological and electoral considerations and not by operational considerations."

A proposal put forward by Itamar Ben-Gvir, the Zionist regime's far-right minister, to limit the entry of Palestinians into the mosque was accepted by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a meeting with senior officials on Sunday, according to a Haaretz report.

The limitations will be based on criteria such as age and gender, the details of which are to be decided in the coming days.

Ben Gvir reportedly recommended that only Palestinians above the age of 70 should be allowed into the mosque during Ramadan, which starts next month, while Israeli police recommended entry for those aged over 45.

He also proposed a complete ban on Palestinians from the occupied West Bank worshipping at Al-Aqsa during the holy month, although no decision has been made on this yet.

Among the signatories to Tuesday's letter were former police commissioners, including Moshe Karadi, Shlomo Aharonishki, As-saf Hefetz and Roni Alsheich.

The letter said it was important "to learn and draw lessons from the events that took place on the Temple Mount in recent years."

"The Israeli police knew in the past to allow the existence of prayers while limiting the number of worshippers but only on the basis of an intelligence and operational situational assessment," it warned.

The proposals had already provoked a backlash from other sections of the Zionist regime.

Shin Bet said last week that it opposed restrictions and instead favored unrestricted access for Palestinians.

At ICJ Hearing, Russia Blames Israel, U.S., Allies for Ongoing Gaza Conflict

ATHENS (Dispatches) – Russia on Wednesday blamed the Zionist regime, the U.S. and its allies for the ongoing Gaza conflict.

"We are convinced the tragic events of the 7th of October cannot justify the collective punishment of more than 2 million Gazans. We cannot accept the logic of those officials in Israel and some Western countries who try to defend the indiscriminate violence against civilians by referring to Israel's duty to protect its nationals," Vladimir Tarabrin, the Russian envoy to the Netherlands,

said at a hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal consequences of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

"Violence can only lead to more violence. Hatred brings hatred. This vicious circle must be broken," Tarabrin added.

"The continued Israeli occupation of Palestine impedes the realization of the Palestinian people of its right of self-determination," he said.

"A negotiated solution with an independent and viable Palestinian state peacefully coexisting with Israel will be the best recipe for bringing an end to Israel's violations, creating guarantees of their non-repetition and redressing the damage," Tarabrin added.

Public hearings started Monday in The Hague following the UN General Assembly's request for an advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Al-Quds.

South Africa brought a genocide case against Israel to the ICJ in late December and asked it for emergency measures to end Palestinian bloodshed in Gaza, where more than 29,300 people have been killed since Oct. 7.

The world court in January ordered Israel to take "all measures within its power" to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza but fell short of ordering a ceasefire.

It also ordered Israel to take "immediate and effective" measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip.

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UK High Court Dismisses Legal Challenge Over Arms Sales to Israel

LONDON (Dispatchers) – The UK High Court has dismissed a legal challenge that sought the immediate halt of British arms exports to the Zionist regime.

The case was brought by Palestinian human rights group Al Haq and the UK-based Global Legal Action Network (Glan) against the UK Department for Business and Trade. The organizations say they will appeal against Monday's ruling.

The two groups filed the challenge in December, seeking a judicial review of the government's export licensing process for the sale of British weapons to Israel.

More than 29,300 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the occupying regime launched its assault on the enclave on 7

October.

The British government has licensed at least £472mn worth of military exports to Israel since May 2015 with UK companies providing about 15 percent of the components of the F35 stealth combat aircraft which the regime has used to bomb Gaza, according to the Committee Against Arms Trade.

Under its arms exporting criteria, the British government is obligated to suspend licenses for arms exports if it determines that there is a clear risk that British weapons might be used in violations of international law.

The groups have argued that there is substantial evidence that this moment has long

passed.

The Department for Business and Trade has said it keeps arms export licenses under "careful and continual review" and that it can respond quickly to changing international circumstances.

The High Court ruled to dismiss the case, saying that there was a "high hurdle" to establish that the department had been irrational in its decision making, and there was "no realistic prospect" the hurdle would be surmounted in the challenge.

As a result of the challenge, the government revealed in court documents that Foreign Office officials had "serious concerns" as early as 10 November that Israel had breached international law in Gaza.

Hezbollah Warns of Military Escalation Against Israel

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah warned of harsher military response against the Zionist regime on Wednesday if Tel Aviv mounted its airstrikes in Lebanon.

"Until now, confrontations have been limited," Hezbollah deputy chief Naim Qassem said in a speech at an event in Beirut's southern neighborhood.

"However, we will escalate if the enemy moves to a higher level" in its attacks, he added.

The Hezbollah leader criticized the West's double standards in dealing with the Zionist regime's war on the Gaza Strip.

"Western diplomacy aims to disable our strength in disturbing Israel's security, but it does not work to stop the war on Gaza," he added.

Tension has flared along the Lebanese border amid intermittent exchanges of fire between Zionist troops and Hezbollah, in the deadliest clashes since the two sides fought a full-scale war in 2006.

The tension comes amid an Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 29,313 people since Oct. 7 last year.

On Wednesday, Hezbollah fighters, meanwhile, targeted groups of Israeli soldiers in the al-Marj post and in the northern Israeli settlements of Even Menachem, Shumira and Avivim.

The group also struck the Rweissat al-Alam post in the occupied Shebaa Farms.

The Lebanese resistance movement hit Israeli outposts in Zebdine area and Zar'it moshav in the Upper Galilee region near the Lebanese border.

An Israeli strike knocked down part of a building in the southern Lebanese city of Nabatiyeh on February 14, killing seven members of the same family, including a child. A boy initially reported missing was found alive under the rubble.

In a separate Israeli attack, a woman and her two children were killed in the village of as-Sawana in southern Lebanon.

The regime's devastating hostilities began on October 7 after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas carried out the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying entity.