

Foreign Ministers of Iran, Egypt Meet

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said here Tuesday diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic and Egypt will positively influence the entire region. Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Sameh Hassan Shoukry, on the sidelines of the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The Iranian top diplomat went on to say that advancing regional stability is in the interest of Tehran and Cairo alike. He also described a recent meeting between the presidents of the two nations in the Saudi capital. (Continued on Page 7)

Kayhan International

Venezuela, Iran Discuss Implementation of 20-Year Agreement

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- The foreign ministers of Iran and Venezuela here Tuesday explored ways to implement a 20-year cooperation agreement the two states signed in 2022. In a meeting on the sidelines of the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian and his Venezuelan counterpart Yan Gil Pinto stressed the need for joint efforts to carry out the long-term cooperation agreement between their countries. Calling for closer interaction between Tehran and Caracas, Amir-Abdollahian denounced the U.S.' interference in the internal affairs of Venezuela.

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Viewpoint

The Futility of the US' Self-Defeatist Sanctions

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World's Awakening Conscience Toward Gaza Genocide

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Aaron Bushnell, an active-duty member of the U.S. Air Force, died on Sunday after setting himself on fire in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC, in an act of protest against the genocide in Gaza.

His last words were "Free Palestine".

"I will no longer be complicit in genocide. I'm about to engage in an extreme act of protest, but compared to what people are experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal. Free Palestine," he said in a video he made while walking in front of the embassy.

Bushnell, 25, was dressed in military attire as he used a lighter to set himself on fire after dousing himself in liquid. He recorded the entire incident on Twitch, a popular streaming platform, which has removed the video.

In the video, two law enforcement officials approach him as he's burning. One of them is pointing a gun at him. The other says, "I don't need guns, I need fire extinguishers!"

Bushnell was said to be engulfed in flames for approximately one minute before law enforcement officials extinguished the flames.

A Facebook post credited to Bushnell was widely shared on Twitter on Monday, with the following content: "Many of us like to ask ourselves, 'What would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow South? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide?' The answer is, you're doing it. Right now."

Bushnell lived in San Antonio, Texas, and was pursuing a Bachelor's degree in software engineering.

His LinkedIn page says: "Throughout my time in the military in both leadership and followership roles, as well as prior work experience in a variety of civilian roles, I have thrived in team environments and gained very good communication skills."

This is not the first time incidents such as this have taken place in the U.S. in protest against wars, and it is the second such act of self-immolation since the war on Gaza started in October.

In December, a female protester self-immolated outside an Israeli consulate building in Atlanta, in what U.S. police described as "an extreme act of political protest". She sustained third-degree burns to her body. A Palestinian flag was found at the scene. Her name or age has never been released by authorities.

On November 2, 1965, Norman

Morrison, an anti-war activist, covered himself in kerosene and ignited himself on fire below the office of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara at the Pentagon, in protest against the United States' participation in the Vietnam War.

In 1993, Graham Bamford poured gasoline all over himself and burnt himself alive in front of the Lower House of the British Parliament and during the middle of the day to point to the suffering of those in Bosnia dying from genocide.

Following the incident, mainstream media outlets came under scrutiny for their choice of headlines. The New York Times headline said, "Man Dies After Setting Himself on Fire Outside Israeli Embassy in Washington, Police Say."

CNN: U.S. airman dies after setting himself on fire outside Israeli Embassy in Washington

BBC: Aaron Bushnell: U.S. airman dies after setting himself on fire outside Israeli embassy in Washington

Washington Post: Airman dies after setting himself on fire outside Israeli Embassy in D.C.

"Why did he do it?" Assal Rad, a user on X wrote. "None one of [the headlines] mentions the words 'Gaza' or 'genocide', the reason for Aaron's protest, or the word 'Palestine', his last words spoken."

Staffers for Ceasefire, a group of staffers in the Biden administration who are pressuring the administration towards a ceasefire, mourned the loss of Bushnell and called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

"President Biden, our Commander-in-Chief, continues to ignore staff dissent over the mass suffering caused by our leaders' complicity," the statement read.

"President Biden has the unique power to mitigate the harms being done - not through useless backchannel conversations, but through established processes of international law and strong diplomacy. He can choose to change our current trajectory of unnecessary destruction."

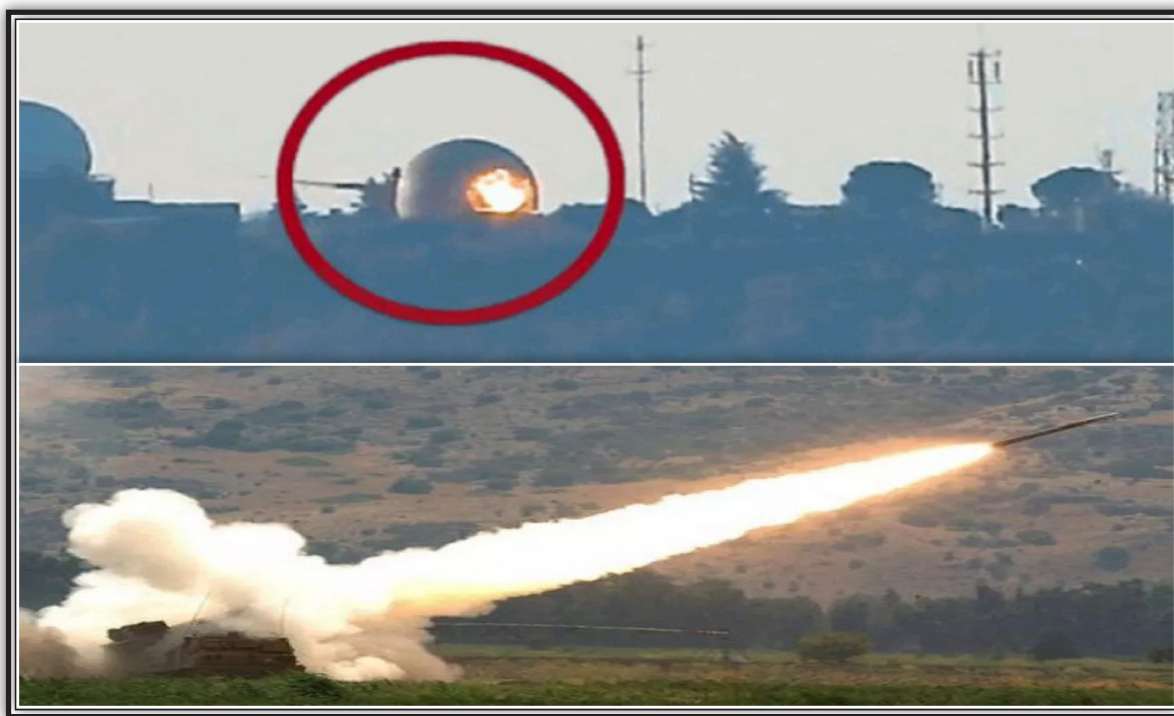
The Palestinian Youth Movement said in an Instagram post, "While U.S. media is already spinning the story as one of a mentally ill, troubled youth, Aaron's own message in the seconds before his act demonstrate the moral clarity and foresight with which he pondered and ultimately decided upon his act."

They added that the "word for martyr in Arabic, 'shaheed,' translates to 'witness,' or one whose final moment in life is as a witness to injustice".

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In Response to Baalbek Aggression,

Hezbollah Pounds Israeli Base With 100 Rockets



This image from video shows a Hezbollah anti-tank guided missile hitting a radar dome at an Israeli air force base on Mount Meron, January 6, 2024.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Hezbollah on Tuesday fired a barrage of rockets at an Israeli military base in the northern part of the occupied territories in response to the Zionist regime's deadly airstrikes on eastern Lebanon.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television news network, citing a brief Hezbollah statement, reported that the group targeted the Mount Meron base.

The sensitive Israeli air traffic control base has been targeted

by Hezbollah several times amid the ongoing Israeli onslaught on Gaza.

Hezbollah said in the statement that the rocket attack came in retaliation for brutal aggression against Gaza, and in response to Israeli airstrikes a day earlier on the outskirts of Buday village near Baalbek, which claimed the lives of at least two resistance fighters.

Zionist media outlets said Hezbollah launched a volley of

rockets from Lebanese territories towards the Mount Meron base, noting that the sound of several loud explosions was heard in the area.

They noted that Hezbollah had fired more than 100 projectiles in less than 24 hours.

Hezbollah fired a volley of rockets from Lebanon on Monday at an Israeli military base in Syria's occupied Golan Heights, in response to the deadly airstrikes in Lebanon's Baalbek.

Two Lebanese security officials and a source close to the resistance group told AFP news agency that two Hezbollah members were martyred in the Israeli aerial raids.

One of the Lebanese security sources said the Zionist regime's strikes hit a building used by Hezbollah in a Baalbek suburb, and a warehouse near Baalbek belonging to the group.

Later on Monday, an Israeli strike on a car in southern Lebanon martyred at least one person, local rescuers said, without providing further details.

The Zionist regime has been intermittently attacking southern Lebanon since October 7, when the occupation entity launched the devastating campaign of death and destruction in Gaza.

In retaliation, Hezbollah has mounted near-daily rocket attacks on Israeli positions.

More than 270 people have been martyred on the Lebanese border in Israeli aggression. At least 16 Zionists have been killed in the area.

The fighting has forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of Zionists from the northern part of the occupied territories, which have been pummeled by rocket fire and shelling carried out by Hezbollah and allied Palestinian groups.

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Russia Warns Against Western Ground Troops in Ukraine

Macron Sends Shockwaves Through Europe

PARIS (AFP) -- French President Emmanuel Macron triggered a shockwave in Europe on Tuesday by refusing to rule out the dispatch of Western ground troops to Ukraine in its fight against Russia.

Macron had hosted a conference of European leaders on Monday -- just over two years to the day after the war started -- seeking to rally greater support for Kyiv, which faces increasing battlefield challenges and dwindling munitions stocks.

He painted a grim picture of Russia under President Vladimir Putin, arguing there had been a "change of posture" even in the last months that had seen a hardening of its stance both domestically and in Ukraine.

"Nothing can be excluded to pursue our objective: Russia cannot and must not win this war," Macron said after the conference gathering leaders including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Polish President Andrzej Duda that ended with a midnight press conference.

While there was "no consensus" on the sending of Western ground troops to Ukraine, "noth-

ing should be excluded. We will do whatever it takes to ensure that Russia cannot win this war," Macron added.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov offered a muted initial reaction on Tuesday, saying that sending Western troops to Ukraine was "absolutely not in the interests of these countries, they should be aware of this."

Macron had refused to say more about France's position, citing the need for "strategic ambiguity" but saying the issue was mentioned "among the options".

"We are convinced that the defeat of Russia is indispensable to security and stability in Europe," Macron said.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, accused by critics of being too cozy with Moscow, said after the meeting that there was disunity on the issue at the meeting.

"There are countries that are ready to send their own soldiers to Ukraine, there are countries that say never -- Slovakia is among them -- and there are countries that say that this proposal should be considered," he said. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson

of Sweden, which is set to join NATO, poured initial cold water on the idea, saying "it's not on the cards at all for the moment".

"For the moment, we're busy sending advanced (military) equipment to Ukraine," Kristersson said.

Macron was criticized at home by the party leader of the far-right National Rally Jordan Bardella who accused the president of "losing his cool" by raising "the specter of a committing of our troops against a nuclear power".

But French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal Tuesday reaffirmed Macron's comments, saying "you can't rule anything out in a war".

Macron even took an apparent swipe at France's ally Germany, which had been mocked in the first months of the war for its relatively soft promises of military support.

"I recall that two years ago many around this table said we will offer sleeping bags and helmets and now they say we need to do more and quicker to have missiles and tanks." "Let us have the humility to note that we have often been six to twelve months late."

Macron argued that the hardening of Russia's approach had been "cruelly" manifested in the death in an Arctic prison on February 16 of President Putin's top opponent Alexei Navalny.

"There is in our eyes a change of posture on the part of Russia," Macron said.

"Russia is adopting an attitude that is more aggressive not just in Ukraine but against us all in general."

Macron said a new coalition would be set up to supply Ukraine with "missiles and bombs of medium and long range to carry out deep strikes".

There was a "broad consensus to do more and quicker", he added, saying there was also a consensus to ramp up joint production of armaments with Ukraine and boost its own military industry.

Czech Premier Petr Fiala meanwhile said there was "great support" for an initiative to help Ukraine buy munitions outside the EU. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said his country would contribute and others would follow.

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