

Jordan Hosts Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Syria



Jordan hosts Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad and his regional counterparts, as various Arab states race to mend fences and resume their ties with Damascus.

AMMAN (Dispatches) – Jordan is set to host a meeting of foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt and Syria on Monday to continue their talks on formulating a solution to crisis in Syria.

Sinan al-Majali, a spokesperson for Jordan’s Foreign Ministry, said on Sunday that the meeting in Amman “comes in continuation of the consultative meeting held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on April 14.”

The latest talks were aimed at “building on the outcomes of the communications these

countries made with the Syrian government within their proposals and the Jordanian initiative to reach a political solution to the crisis in Syria,” he said.

Following the meeting in Jeddah, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the diplomats discussed the efforts underway to reach a political solution that would preserve Syria’s stability and territorial unity.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad will also take part in the meeting with his regional counterparts, as various Arab states race to mend fences and

resume their ties with the Damascus government.

The foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Egypt, Iraq and Jordan agreed at the summit in the Red Sea city on April 14 that the Arab world must play a “leadership role” in efforts to find a political solution to the crisis in Syria.

The nine-nation talks came after Mekdad had earlier visited Jeddah on an unannounced trip, the first since the outbreak of the war, during which he and his Saudi counterpart dis-

cussed “the necessary steps” to return Damascus to the Arab League.

Syria’s membership in the Arab League was suspended following the eruption of a foreign-backed militancy in the country in 2011.

In 2015, Syrian activists said that Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Turkey supported both al-Nusra Front, which is affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the Daesh terrorist group in Syria by giving them money or allowing Wahhabi mosques to collect money for them.

Around the same time, former U.S Senate candidate, Mark Dankof said the United States, the Zionist regime, and Saudi Arabia had been involved in creating the Daesh terrorist group to overthrow the legitimate Syrian government.

Saudi Arabia closed its embassy in Damascus and withdrew all diplomats in March 2012. The two governments agreed last month to resume diplomatic relations and reopen embassies.

The UAE also cut its relations with Syria in 2012, a year after Damascus found itself in the grips of foreign-backed violence, but it reopened its embassy in Damascus in 2018.

Activists in Spain Launch Campaign to Prosecute Zionist Regime for Crimes Against Palestinians

MADRID (Dispatches) – Activists have launched a campaign in the Spanish city of Reus, calling on the international community to hold the Zionist regime accountable for its crimes against the people of Palestine.

The Palestinian Arab Community Association and the city’s municipality organized the campaign at the Freedom Square in Reus in the province of Tarragona on Sunday, Palestine’s official Wafa news agency reported.

Husni Abdel Wahed, the head of the Palestinian Authority’s mission to Spain, Monsey Flores, the mayor of Reus, Spanish MPs and members of the Palestinian and Arab com-

munities in Spain were in attendance.

Amina Shoman, head of the Palestinian Community in Reus, said the activists aim to collect as many signatures as possible to prosecute the regime for committing the crime of apartheid against Palestinians.

Tarragona’s deputy mayor, Paula Varas, also expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause, denouncing all the crimes committed by the occupying regime against Palestinians and calling for an immediate end to them.

This is not the first time that a mayor of a Spanish city condemns the occupying regime’s crimes against Palestinians.

Back in February, the mayor of Barcelona announced the suspension of ties with Tel Aviv over the regime’s violation of the Palestinian people’s rights in a “systematic” manner.

Ada Colau announced the decision in a letter to Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stressing that the city would suspend relations until Israel ended the “systematic violation of the people of Palestine’s human rights.”

According to the mayor, the decision was made after 100 groups and more than 4,000 residents had signed a request to break relations with the apartheid regime.

The Palestinian foreign ministry as well as pro-Palestinian rights groups hailed Barcelona’s decision at the time.

The Zionist regime has killed hundreds of Palestinians who oppose the occupation of their lands by the regime since the 1967 war.

The regime grants special status to illegal settlers and applies many Israeli laws to them; however, Palestinians do not have the same legal rights and protections. Human rights groups have stressed that the occupying regime is committing the international crime of apartheid by systematically denying Palestinians equal rights.

Yemen Releases Saudi-Backed Commander After 8 Years

SANA’A (Dispatches) – Yemen’s Sana’a-based government has released a military commander backed the Saudi-led coalition who had been detained for eight years, an official announced in a statement.

Faisal Rajab, a commander in the Saudi-backed forces, was released after a request was made by a tribal delegation from his hometown in the southern province of Abyan.

Abdulkadir al-Murtada, head of the prisoner affairs’ committee, confirmed Rajab’s release in a statement during a press conference held in the Yemeni capital of Sana’a.

“With the release of the prisoner, Major General Faisal Rajab, we confirm our readiness for a (future) comprehensive prisoner swap,” al-Murtada said, urging the United

Nations (UN) to “expedite the implementation of the prisoner exchange deal that was agreed upon in Switzerland.”

Rajab was seen being handed over to the tribal delegation during the press conference.

While welcoming Rajab’s release, Majid Fadail, the spokesman for the negotiating delegation, tweeted that Rajab was originally supposed to be released as part of the UN-brokered prisoner swap deal implemented in mid-April.

Rajab was captured in March 2015 after Ansarullah forces stormed the al-Anad Air Base in the southern province of Lahij. His name appeared on a list of around 900 prisoners who were freed in a three-day prisoner exchange in mid-April.

Yemen’s warring sides have expressed

readiness for the next round of talks to end the war in the Arab state.

Saudi Arabia invaded Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allies and with arms and logistical support from the United States and several other Western states.

The objective was to return power to Yemen’s former Riyadh-backed regime and crush the popular Ansarullah resistance movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of a functional government in Yemen.

While the Saudi-led coalition has failed to achieve its objectives, the war has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and spawned the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Nightmare... (Continued From Page One)

Some of those killed still lie on the roads of Khartoum, and the ICRC’s Africa regional director Patrick Youssef told journalists the Sudanese Red Crescent was “trying to get to the bodies in the streets”.

Only 16 percent of hospitals are functioning in Khartoum, according to the World Health Organization, with many facilities shelled in the fighting.

The warring sides have agreed to multiple truces but none has taken hold, as chaos and lawlessness have gripped the capital city of five million and other regions.

The latest three-day ceasefire -- due to expire at midnight (2200 GMT) Sunday -- was agreed Thursday after mediation led by the United States, Saudi Arabia, the African Union and the United Nations.

As the battles have raged regardless, the rival generals have taken aim at each other in the media.

Burhan again branded the RSF a militia that aims “to destroy Sudan” while Daglo called the army chief “a traitor”.

Local authorities in Khartoum on Sunday put civil servants on open-ended leave “due to the security situation”, though the majority of residents have already been hiding at home since the fighting broke out.

Sudan was ruled for decades by Omar al-Bashir, who was ousted by the military in 2019 after mass pro-democracy protests.

The coup brought Burhan and Daglo to power, and they seized full control in another military takeover, in 2021, before turning on each other.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged negotiations to end the bloodshed.

“There is no right to go on fighting for power when the country is falling apart,” he told Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television on Saturday. “My appeal is for everything to be done to support an African-led initiative for peace in Sudan.”

About 75,000 have been displaced by the fighting, the UN said.

At least 20,000 have escaped to Chad, 4,000 to South Sudan, 3,500 to Ethiopia and 3,000 to the Central African Republic, it said.

The fighting has also triggered a mass exodus of foreigners and international staff.

Saudi Arabia said it had taken about 5,000 people to safety on ships across the Red Sea.

A U.S.-organized road convoy arrived in Port Sudan Saturday to join the exodus.

And the UK Foreign Office said just under 1,900 Britons had been taken out on 21 flights, following large airlifts by France, Germany and other nations.

Fighting, looting and lawlessness have raged in the Darfur region. At least 96 people were reported killed in El Geneina, West Darfur, the UN said.

Darfur is still scarred by a war that erupted in 2003 when Bashir unleashed the Janjaweed militia, which left at least 300,000 dead and close to 2.5 million displaced according to UN figures.

“What’s happening in Darfur is terrible,” Guterres said. “The society is falling apart, we see tribes that now try to arm themselves.”

Protesters... (Continued From Page One)

“There’s a lot of fear in the air that gives way to hatred sometimes,” said Elisheva Blum, a resident of Eli, a settlement in the occupied West Bank. Born in the United States, she came with her religious family to Occupied Palestine in 1988.

Former director of Israel’s so-called Shin Bet internal security service Nadav Argaman has described the direction of the entity as “a car hurtling toward the abyss”.

“This is a world turned upside down, a crazy work. The anarchist has become the rulers,” he said.

Argaman said if he were still head of the Shin Bet he would be most concerned about the rift in Israel.

“The greatest concern is that if these laws are passed, Israel will find itself on the threshold of dictatorship and if Israel finds itself on the threshold of dictatorship, we could witness the collapse from within,” he added.