

Massive Power Outage in Occupied Territories After Cyberattack

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A hacker group says it has broken into the electricity network in major cities across the Israeli-occupied territories in support of the Palestinian nation and the resistance front in the besieged Gaza Strip, causing wide-ranging power outages.

The group, which identifies itself as “Anonymous Sudan”, announced that it cut off the electricity in the Mediterranean coastal cities of Netanya and Tel Aviv on Tuesday evening.

Anonymous Sudan, which had previously hacked several strategic centers of the Zionist regime, also warned that it will launch more extensive attacks against the Zionist apartheid entity.

Additionally, the Sudanese hackers took down the Hebrew-language Israeli military news website 0404.

Palestinian news outlets said that the Distributed Denial of Ser-



A group of Sudanese hackers calling itself Anonymous Sudan has targeted many websites of the Zionist regime.

vice (DDoS) attack, during which websites are targeted by overwhelming their servers with too many requests to connect, made the website unavailable for a while, before it was brought back into service.

Also on Tuesday, Anonymous Sudan announced it had success-

fully conducted a massive cyber attack against the occupying regime, breaking into the servers of Bezeq Group, the largest and leading communications group in the occupied territories, as well as several political parties like Shas, Kulanu, Agudat Yisrael and the Jewish Home, and struck the

website of the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and the English newspaper Jerusalem Post.

This came only a day after several websites, including those of the Knesset (parliament) and two major ports in the occupied territories, were taken down by the same hacker group.

Zionist regime outlets reported on Sunday that an attack had targeted the regime’s Radio 103FM station and the website of Check Point Software Technologies Ltd., an American-Israeli multinational provider of software and combined hardware and software products for cyber security.

On Saturday, the websites of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel Weapon Industries (IWI), a firearms manufacturer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., and Evigilo Ltd., which develops and delivers emergency mass-notification and alert multi-channel solutions, were hacked.

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television channel Al-Mayadeen ahead of his visit, Raisi called for reconstruction efforts and for Syrian refugees who fled the country’s war to return home.

He said the trip would “consolidate and develop” ties with Syria and other allies, including Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah.

“Syria’s government and people have gone through great hardship,” Syrian state media quoted Raisi as telling Assad during their meeting. “Today, we can now say that you have overcome all these problems and were victorious, despite the threats and sanctions imposed against you.”

Raisi was also to visit the Sayida Zeinab and Sayida Ruqayya shrines, both holy sites in Shia Islam, as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument dedicated to Syrian soldiers killed in battle.

The last Iranian president to visit Syria was President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2010.

The large Iranian delegation includes the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, oil, roads and urban development as well as telecommunications.

Raisi’s visit comes as some Arab countries, including Egypt and regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia, have been opening up to Assad and their foreign ministers have visited Damascus in recent weeks. Syria’s foreign minister also visited the Saudi capital of Riyadh in April, the first such visit since the two countries cut relations in 2012.

In March, Iran and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement, brokered by China, to re-establish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies after seven years of tensions.

The regional atmosphere following the Saudi-Iran rapprochement has made Raisi’s visit “more appropriate”, said Damascus-based analyst Osama Danura.

In April, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan made the first visit to Damascus by a Saudi official since the start of the war.

“America and its allies failed on all fronts against the resistance, and could not achieve any of their goals,” Iran’s new ambassador to Syria, Hussein Akbari, told Iran’s state news agency on Tuesday.

A week before the Iranian president’s visit to Damascus, Iran’s minister of road and urban development, Mehrdad Bazrpash, met with Assad in the Syrian capital, where he delivered a message from Raisi supporting the expansion of ties, Iran’s IRNA news agency said.

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Vyacheslav Volodin, issued a statement demanding the use of “weapons capable of stopping and destroying the Kyiv terrorist regime”.

Margarita Simonyan, head of the state broadcaster RT, wrote on Telegram: “Maybe now things will get started for real?”

The statement from the presidential administration said fragments of the drones had been scattered on the territory of the Kremlin complex but there were no casualties or material damage.

RIA said Putin had not been in the Kremlin at the time, and was working on Wednesday at his Novo Ogoryovo residence outside Moscow.

Another video circulating on Russian social media appeared to show a plume of smoke over the Kremlin after the purported attack.

The video was posted in the early hours of Wednesday on a group for residents of a neighborhood that faces the Kremlin across the Moskva River. It was picked up by Russian media, including the Telegram channel of the military news outlet Zvezda.

Victory Day is a major public holiday commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War Two, and a chance for Putin to rally Russians behind what he calls his “special military operation” in Ukraine.

Russia marks the occasion with a huge military parade on Red Square, for which seating has already been erected.

The state news agency TASS said the parade - for which the Kremlin last week announced tighter security - would still go ahead.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said earlier on Wednesday that the city had introduced an immediate ban on unauthorized drone flights.

Russia has accused Ukraine of numerous cross-border attacks since the start of the war, including strikes in December on an air base deep inside Russian territory that houses strategic bomber planes equipped to carry nuclear weapons. In February, a drone crashed in Kolomna, about 110 km (70 miles) from the centre of Moscow.

Ukraine typically declines to claim responsibility for attacks on Russia or

Russian-annexed Crimea, though Kyiv officials have frequently celebrated such attacks with cryptic or mocking remarks.

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Food Program carrying aid to the western region of Darfur were looted on the road, he said, and singled out Darfur and Khartoum as badly in need of assistance.

“It’s not as if we’re asking for the moon,” Griffiths said in the online briefing. “We’re asking for the movement of humanitarian supplies and people. We do this in every other country, even without cease-fires.”

The conflict has so far killed 550 people, including civilians, and wounded more than 4,900. The fighting has displaced at least 334,000 people inside Sudan, and sent tens of thousands more to neighboring countries — Egypt, Chad, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia, according to UN agencies.

More than 42,000 Sudanese who fled the war in their country have crossed into Egypt along with 2,300 foreign nationals since the crisis began, according to the UN refugee agency. Aid workers are increasingly concerned about lack of basic services in these areas, and also in Port Sudan, some 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Khartoum.

Many Western countries have completed evacuations for their citizens from the country, with France, Britain and now the United States using Port Sudan as a base for those looking to leave. But citizens of other nations are still struggling to find a way out.

An estimated hundreds of Syrians, who came to Sudan fleeing their own country’s civil war over the past decade, are among the last foreigners to leave.

Tariq Abdel-Hameed, a Syrian in Port Sudan, said a second Damascus-bound flight with a around 200 Syrians mostly pregnant women and sick people, is scheduled to take off from Port Sudan later Wednesday.

He said the first flight landed in the Syrian capital early Wednesday, with some 200 people, including 21 children, on board. He said more flights are scheduled in the coming days.

For thousands of Sudanese and foreigners flocking to Port Sudan, the city was the last stop before leaving the country. Saudi warships have been ferrying mainly foreigners but also dual Sudanese nationals and others across the Red Sea to the city of Jeddah in the kingdom.

“It feels really sad to be leaving behind a part of your life,” said Saadiya Abdulrahman, a Sudanese-American woman from Khartoum, while waiting with her daughter for their turn to board a Saudi vessel on Tuesday night. When their turn came, the two first boarded a tugboat with dozens of others, to take them to the Saudi ship.

“Khartoum has become like a ghost town in some neighborhoods because of all the destruction,” said Salah Suleiman, a Sudanese from Khartoum who was among those sailing to Jeddah.

On Wednesday, the fighting continued in and around the Sudanese capital. Clouds of smoke were seen over areas of active fighting, and residents-hiding in their homes still heard sounds of explosions, with the battles still seemingly centered around key government buildings, such as the Presidential Palace.

There were increasing signs of lawlessness in many of the city’s neighborhoods, with reports that more diplomatic facilities were being targeted. Armed men stormed the building housing the office of Saudi Arabia’s cultural attaché in Sudan, the kingdom said Wednesday.

A statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency said an armed group “destroyed equipment and cameras, seized some of attaché’s property and disrupted the attaché’s systems and servers.”

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“talked-about country” in the field of the defense industry.

Raisi also dismissed the Zionist regime’s threats against the regional resistance front, saying Tel Aviv is incapable of meeting even its own “internal security” demands, not to mention taking on the resistance.

“The current circumstances are in favor of the resistance and against the Zionist regime,” he said, adding, “The Zionist regime’s threats are vain and hollow. This regime is today incapable of confronting the youths of the Palestinian resistance and the region.”

Iran, he said, has not and will not regret supporting the regional resistance front in the face of the occupying regime’s aggression.

Erdogan: Opposition ‘Dividing Turkey’

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has hit out at the alliance of the six opposition parties for “drawing support” from terrorist organizations and imperialists, saying they are seeking to “divide the country” and revert its gains.

Erdogan made the remarks at a massive election rally in the southern Turkish province of Antalya, where thousands of supporters of the country’s ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) gathered.

“They just want to push Turkey into a pit from which it will not be able to recover for at least half a century, with its

politics, economy, defense, diplomacy, and plunge it into a swamp,” Erdogan said.

He said this is not the first time that Turkey is exposed to ideological infighting, sectarian and ethnic strife, implying that foreign powers are endorsing the opposition bloc.

“They want to divide the country into camps again by deepening the separation of origin and sect, and turn brother against brother,” Erdogan said, adding, “They want to hand over the country to terrorist groups controlled by imperialists.”

“In short, their problem is not with us, but with Turkey, the Turkish nation, and Turkey’s

gains,” he maintained.

The six-party opposition bloc, led by presidential candidate and Republican People’s Party (CHP) Chair Kemal Kilicdaroglu, aims to reverse many of Erdogan’s policies on foreign affairs, economy, and civil rights.

The bloc has already unveiled plans to assign heads of six parties as vice presidents of Kemal Kilicdaroglu if they win the elections.

On Sunday, Erdogan accused Kilicdaroglu, his main rival, of cooperating with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), as he visited the Teknofest aviation and space fair in Istanbul.

The PKK – designated as a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States, and the European Union – has been waging a decades-long armed insurgency against Ankara for greater autonomy for the Kurdish minority in the Turkish southeast.

Turkey is to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on 14 May, a month ahead of schedule.

Erdogan, 69, has ruled Turkey since 2003, first as prime minister and later as president. He is facing criticisms over Turkey’s double-digit inflation and his government’s response to February’s devastating earthquake.

Syria Touts for Tourists Amid Emerging Arab Rapprochement

DAMASCUS (Reuters) – Overlooked by a portrait of President Bashar al-Assad and offering sticky sweets, a Syrian tourism booth in Dubai is trying to seize on an emerging rapprochement with Arab states to win back Persian Gulf tourists it lost during more than a decade of foreign-backed war.

“We are now aiming to regain the tourism income from (Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries) to Syria. We used to have millions of our friends and brothers from GCC countries in Syria, especially in summer,” Nedal Machfej, Syria’s deputy Tourism

Minister, told Reuters at the Arabian Travel Market exhibition in Dubai.

Some Arab States, including GCC members the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, are increasingly rebuilding ties with Damascus, reversing years of isolation.

Assad, in March, visited the UAE and sources have told Reuters that Saudi Arabia plans to invite Assad for a visit soon.

Machfej said Syria had 1.5 million visitors last year, a third of which were tourists. Around 10 percent of those tourists were from

Western Europe, he added.

This year, Syria is aiming for 3 million visitors, he said. Tourism Ministry data shows 385,000 visitors came to Syria in the first quarter this year, 40,000 of who were non-Arab foreigners.

Tourism dried up with the outbreak of war, which has killed hundreds of thousands of people and badly damaged cultural sites, including Aleppo’s old city and the ancient ruins of Palmyra.

Syria’s economy is also in a bad way, including a dramatic fall in the currency’s value since 2019.

Machfej said the country wants

to use tourism to increase foreign currency inflows, but named Syria’s wartime allies as its main future markets.

“We are aiming to open new markets especially in Iran, Russia, and China and in neighboring countries also,” he said.

Syria is building new hotels in seaside locations to cater to family tourism, a website for electronic visas is coming soon and the private sector is talking to tour operators in Jordan and Lebanon to re-instate previously popular multi-country package tours, he said.

Rights Group: UAE Waging ‘Sustained Assault’ on Human Rights

DUBAI (Middle East Eye) – The UAE is continuing its “sustained assault” on human rights and is using the criminal justice system as a “tool” to eliminate the human rights movement, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and 40 other organizations said in a joint statement.

The statement comes ahead of the Cop28 UN climate change conference which the UAE will host in late November.

“We express our deep concern over the human rights situation in the country, particularly the severe restrictions imposed by the authorities on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly,” the statement said, “which seriously under-

mine the work of civil society and the space for political dissent in the country.”

UAE authorities have “unjustly” detained at least 60 Emirati human rights defenders, activists, and political dissidents who were arrested in 2012, the statement reads. Many of them were jailed following a controversial mass trial known as the “UAE 94”. They should have been released on 16 July 2019.

The UAE 94 case was a mass trial in 2013 involving 94 people who were charged with trying to overthrow the Emirati government, a charge they denied.

While more than three-quarters of the prisoners have completed their sentences,

they still remain in arbitrary detention because authorities refuse to release them.

The UAE has also jailed Nasser Bin Ghaith, a prominent economist and human rights defender, over tweets that criticized Egypt, a key ally of the Persian Gulf country.

He was sentenced to ten years in prison at the Federal Appeal Court in Abu Dhabi in 2017 for “communicating with secret organizations” and “offensive online posts”, an Emirati state news agency reported.

The joint statement also highlighted the 2021 Cybercrime Law, saying this was issued to “restrict online activism and dissent”.