

Report: Zionists Worried About Syria's Return to Arab League

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syria's readmission into the Arab League after 12 years of suspension has raised concerns inside the occupied territories, an Israeli newspaper has reported.

According to Yedioth Ahronoth daily, Zionist war minister Yoav Gallant has recently made an assessment with the army's commanders on Syria's return to the pan-Arab body.

"Israel assesses that this is a bad development on the short and medium term as [Syria's] return will end the isolation of (Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad in the Arab world and makes any Israeli strikes on Syria less legitimate," it said.

The newspaper, however, said that some in the occupying regime see it premature to assess the implications of Syria's return to the Cairo-based organization.

Others see that reinstating Syria's Arab League membership would harm the regime's military action in Syria, the Israeli newspaper said.

The occupying regime has repeatedly carried out strikes on Syria.

On Friday, President Assad attended the annual Arab summit in Saudi Arabia for the first time since 2011.

A senior official of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad arrives to attend the Arab League summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on May 18, 2023.

said the Arab League summit in the Saudi city of Jeddah would have been pointless without the participation of the Syrian president.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem made the remarks during a ceremony in the southern Lebanese region of Beqaa.

The Arab League summit would have become absurd and unproductive without Assad attending the 32nd regular session of the 22-member bloc – the first such participation since the foreign-backed militancy began in Syria more than a decade ago, he said, emphasizing that such a fact reflects the "role and position" of Damascus in the Arab world.

"Assad's participation pulled the plug on all anti-Syria plots,"

Sheikh Qassem said. "All those conspiracies developed over the past 12 years with the intent to ruin Syria, undercut its political position, and surrender it to the Tel Aviv regime have now completely failed. We have entered a new stage."

He also said his group has long called on Lebanese authorities to strengthen ties with Syria and the Axis of Resistance and confront the apartheid Zionist regime, which is the real enemy of Muslims and has been in collaboration with Daesh and other terrorists.

"The resistance front proved once again that it can alter existing equations and set out its own conditions in the region," Sheikh Qassem added.

During his address at the Arab

League summit in the Saudi city of Jeddah, Assad hoped for increased cooperation between regional states, saying, "I hope that it marks the beginning of a new phase of Arab action for solidarity among us, for peace in our region, development and prosperity instead of war and destruction."

He noted that the gaps between Syria and other Arab states that have emerged over the last decade must be addressed, and the most important thing is to let the people manage their internal affairs and avoid external interference.

Arab government representatives in Cairo voted on May 7 to return Syria to the Arab League after a 12-year suspension.

All 13 of the 22 member states that attended the session endorsed the decision.

The Arab League suspended Syria's membership in November 2011, citing an alleged crackdown by Damascus on opposition protests. Syria has denounced the move as "illegal and a violation of the organization's charter."

Syria was one of the six founding members of the Arab League in 1945. In recent months, an increasing number of countries and political parties have called for the reversal of its suspension from the Arab League.

Former Zionist Soldier Returns Key to Al-Aqsa After 56 Years



Palestinian in Gaza protests the right to return to their homeland on 14 May 2018.

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – A former soldier with the Zionist regime's army has handed back a key for a gate of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Al-Quds after stealing it 56 years ago, Anadolu reports.

The Islamic Endowments Department in Al-Quds published a video showing its director general Sheikh Azzam al-Khatib receiving the key from the man, identified as Yair Barack.

In the video, Barack said he was part of the Zionist regime's battalion that fought on the East Al-Quds front, adding that many of his comrades died during the fighting in 1967.

"I arrived at the Al-Mughrabi Gate (in the western corridor of Al-Aqsa Mosque)...and when I looked at the left side, I found a key. I don't know why I put my hand on it and took it," he said.

"I put the key in my pocket, and since then, I've had it in my possession," he added.

Barack said that after 40 or 50 years, he began feeling uncomfortable that the key was still with him "simply because I stole it and I now decided to return it."

"Now I am here. I returned the

key that I had stolen. I returned it back to its owners...and this is what Israel should do — to return back to the Palestinians their land, rights, respect, independence, freedom and security," he said.

He said that after returning the key, he felt he "did the right thing." His handing back of the key came as Zionist settlers along with scores of regime officials joined a "flag march" to celebrate their occupation of East Al-Quds in 1967.

Commenting on the controversial march, he said this is one of the worst days in the year for him, adding he stopped celebrating "flag day" a long time ago.

The Flag March is staged by Zionist settlers every year to mark what they call the unification of Al-Quds, in reference to the regime's occupation of the city in 1967.

"I was part of it at that day. I wished I didn't do it, which is occupying Al-Quds," he said.

The Zionist regime occupied East Al-Quds during the 1967 Arab-Zionist War. It annexed the entire city in 1980 in a move never recognized by the international community.

Bahrain to Restore Full Diplomatic Relations With Lebanon

MANAMA (Al Jazeera) – Bahrain says it will restore full diplomatic relations with Lebanon following a row over the Saudi-led military aggression on Yemen that saw the countries break ties for a year and a half.

Manama said it was bringing an end to the impasse, a move welcomed by Beirut.

Bahrain and other Persian Gulf countries followed Saudi Arabia in recalling their diplomats from Lebanon in October 2021 after the then-information minister, George Kordahi, was quoted as criticizing the Saudi role in the war in Yemen, which has produced what the United Nations describes as the world's

worst humanitarian crisis.

Kordahi said in an interview, which he gave a month before his appointment but it later surfaced online, that the Ansarullah forces were "defending themselves ... against an external aggression" in Yemen. He also said the long-running conflict was "futile" and called for it to end.

In response, Riyadh recalled its ambassador and ordered Lebanon's envoy to leave the kingdom. Its Persian Gulf allies – the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain – followed suit, expelling Lebanon's envoys.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain has

decided to restore diplomatic representation" at the ambassador level in Lebanon, the Bahraini foreign ministry said, adding that this would "strengthen the fraternal relations between the two countries".

Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati said the country "appreciated this decision and welcomes it".

Saudi Arabia returned its envoy to Lebanon in April last year.

The restoration of ties comes amid a number of other efforts to resolve regional disputes, including bringing Syria back into the Arab League. After more than a decade of isolation,

Bashar al-Assad, the president of Syria, attended the regional bloc's 32nd summit in Saudi Arabia's port city of Jeddah on Friday.

There has also been a recent rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia brokered by China.

On May 25, Qatar and Bahrain will resume flights as part of a normalization of diplomatic relations between them.

In 2017, Bahrain, along with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt, severed ties and imposed a blockade on Qatar over claims it backed hardline groups, allegations Doha has always firmly denied.

Helicopter Crash Kills 2 During Patrol in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) – An Afghan military helicopter crashed in the country's north Sunday after hitting a power line base, killing at least two crewmembers, the Defense Ministry said.

The MD-530 chopper was patrolling in the area after it took off from northern Balkh province and crashed in the Kholm district in Samangan province, a ministry statement said.

Officials said the chopper hit the base of a high voltage power line before crashing.

It is unclear how many helicopters, including U.S. choppers, are in the hands of the Taliban-run government. As the U.S.-backed Afghan government collapsed in mid-August 2021, dozens of Afghan pilots fled to Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Afghan air force pilots played a key role, during the 20-year U.S. occupation of the country. The conflict ended with the departure

of foreign troops from Afghanistan in 2021. Helicopter airstrikes inflicted heavy casualties among the Taliban and repeatedly drove them from positions they had seized in different parts of the country.

After the Taliban took over the country, about 140 Afghan pilots and others were flown out of Tajikistan to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates en route to their final destination in the U.S.

Times of Israel Publishes, Then Deletes Article Advocating 'Obliteration of Palestine'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Times of Israel newspaper has published a blog post explicitly calling for the "obliteration of Palestine" but later deleted the post.

The article, which openly calls for the genocide of the Palestinian people, appeared in the Israeli paper and was subsequently deleted from the blog section of its website, but the piece is still accessible through the digital library Internet Archive.

The article was authored by Chicago-based blogger Jeffrey Camras, who is claimed to be a person with a "deep love for the Jewish people and ... Israel."

"In order to right a wrong, in order to make peace and move forward, Palestine must be obliterated," Camras wrote, adding, "It is an affront to society, morality, humanity. It represents lies and antisemitism, oppression and terror. Nothing more."

Camras further claimed that, "No one cares about the Palestinians. Care for them solely exists in the form of anti-Israel advocacy, not pro-Palestinian support."

The Chicago-based blogger also suggested in his article that the Zionist regime "conquer remaining biblical lands in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Do this diplomatically or militarily."

The piece was published days after the Day of Nakba, or catastrophe, which marks the day the occupying regime proclaimed its illegal existence in 1948 at the expense of the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland.

More than 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly removed from their ancestral homes in Palestine and 500 villages and towns were destroyed by Zionist militias before the emergence of the illegal entity.

Israeli demolitions have increased hugely since late 2022, when Netanyahu returned to power leading what is described as the most right-wing Israeli cabinet ever.

The Zionist premier has also stepped up its illegal settlement construction activities in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which pronounced settlements in the West Bank and East Al-Quds "a flagrant violation under international law."

The occupying regime launched deadly bombing attacks on the Gaza Strip on May 9, sparking the firing of over 1,000 rockets by the Islamic Jihad toward the occupied territories. Aerial assaults by the regime killed at least 33 Palestinians in Gaza, including six children, and wounded 147.