

# Syria: Israel Poses Greatest Threat to West Asia

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Ali Mahmoud Abbas has censured the Zionist regime as the “greatest threat” to the security and stability of West Asia, reiterating that the regime assists the U.S. in its aggressive agenda in the region. “The occupying Zionist regime, with its aggressive practices and expansionist policies in support of terrorism constitutes the greatest threat to the security and stability of the West Asia region,” Abbas declared in an address before the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security held in the town of Kubinka outside the Russian capital on Tuesday.

“The international community is duty-bound to put an end to such practices. It must stop turning a blind eye to the massacres being perpetrated by Israeli authorities across the occupied Palestinian territories, the regime’s insistence on the policy of land expropriation, expansion of illegal settlements,



Syrian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Ali Mahmoud Abbas addresses the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security in the town of Kubinka, outside the Russian capital, on August 15, 2023.

recurrent desecrations of sanctities, and violations of Palestinians’ freedoms and rights,” the Syrian defense minister stated.

He underscored that the occupying regime must be held accountable for its continuous airstrikes on Syrian lands, saying the aerial raids undermine any genuine initiative

to consolidate Syria’s security and stability.

Abbas added that the criminal policies of the Zionist regime have even reached out to Africa, and the regime interferes in the internal affairs of the continent, creates conflicts in African nations, and works to generate a state of tensions there.

The Syrian defense minister also noted that many countries have suffered from the evils and colonial policies of the West, as it has worked a lot to provoke conflicts worldwide, supports terrorist organizations and destroyed nations like Iraq, Libya, Lebanon and Syria.

These countries have been suffering from the scourge of aggression and terrorism for more than 12 years, he said.

He said among the most serious challenges and threats to international security is the foreign occupation of large swathes of land in some countries and attempts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the targeted states.

The Syrian defense minister then pointed to the decades-long Zionist-Palestinian conflict, occupation of Palestinian-owned lands and the immense sufferings that Palestinians have been enduring for more than 70 years.

## Deputy Parl’t Speaker: Algeria Won’t Normalize Ties With Zionist Entity

ALGIERS (Dispatches) – The deputy speaker of the Algerian parliament says the North African country will not join other Arab countries in the normalization of ties with the Zionist regime, as it deems the regime a colonial entity that could never integrate into the Arab world.

Moussa Kharfi told the Arabic service of Russia’s Sputnik news agency that Algeria will maintain its adamant refusal to establish ties with the occupying regime, even if it stands alone on that path.

He underlined that Algeria will

not accept any sort of normalization at whatever cost and will stand against any attempt that would encourage such a decision.

Algeria has suffered for decades from colonialism, and knows very well about the menace and its fallout, he said.

“We consider Israel to be among the colonial entities, and it cannot be part of the Arab world one day,” Kharfi stated.

He also argued that the normalization of ties with the regime is simply confined to the state level, and the nations of those Arab states categorically reject the pro-

cess.

Algeria has been one of the few Arab states to maintain a pro-Palestinian and anti-Zionist stance. Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra has repeatedly urged Arab countries to support the Palestinian people instead of supporting Zionist expansion in the region.

Under the so-called Abraham Accords, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco signed U.S.-brokered normalization deals with the Zionist regime in late 2020. Palestinians have denounced the deals as a

“betrayal” to their cause.

Morocco’s decision to normalize ties with the Zionist regime came after former U.S. president Donald Trump recognized the North African country’s “sovereignty” over Western Sahara, which has been at the center of a decades-old territorial row between Morocco and the Polisario Front.

The Algerian foreign ministry later rejected Trump’s stance, saying the U.S. decision “has no legal effect because it contradicts UN resolutions, especially UN Security Council resolutions on Western Sahara.”

## Palestinian Resistance Factions Praise Hamas’ Call for Municipal Elections

GAZA STRIP (MEMO) – Palestinian resistance factions in Gaza say that they appreciate Hamas’ initiative to hold municipal elections in Gaza Strip, considering it a step in the right direction that

must be utilized and built upon as a gateway to the general elections.

In a press statement, a copy of which was received by Dunia Al-Watan news website, the resistance factions called for removing all ob-

stacles that hinder the achievement of this step, which they considered crucial to achieving partnership, unifying municipal programs and improving the services provided to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The factions also called on the Palestinian Authority to respond to this call and to immediately instruct the elections committee to start preparing for the municipal elections in Gaza.

## Turkish Intelligence Kills Senior PKK Member in Iraq

ANKARA (Xinhua) – The Turkish National Intelligence Organization killed a senior member of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) in a cross-border operation in northern Iraq, semi-official Anadolu Agency reported Wednesday.

Celal Birdal, codenamed “Sidar Serhat,” was “neutralized” in the Gara region of northern Iraq, Anadolu said, adding that he was the responsible person for the “press and archives”

of the PKK.

The term “neutralized” is often used by Turkish authorities to imply that “terrorists” are killed, wounded, or captured in security operations.

Birdal was involved in several attacks against Turkish security forces in the Zap and Hakurk regions in northern Iraq, the agency reported.

The Turkish intelligence has intensified cross-border operations in Iraq since last year

and killed several other senior PKK members over the past months.

The Turkish military also carries out frequent cross-border operations against the PKK in northern Iraq, particularly in the Qandil Mountains, the main base of the group.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has rebelled against the Turkish government for more than three decades.

## Egypt Blackouts Become Symbol of Malaise A Decade After Sisi’s Rise

CAIRO (Reuters) – For Egyptians grown used to a decade of reliable power supplies and boasts of vast investments in generation, a wave of rolling blackouts came as a shock - shaking faith in President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi’s record months before an election.

Along with record inflation and a sharp weakening of the currency, the outages have become a potent symptom of the worst economic crisis to hit Egypt since Sisi took power in 2014 on promises of stability and

development.

A former army chief who has overseen a far-reaching crackdown on political dissent, Sisi is widely expected to secure a third term in elections due by early 2024, with the military and other security services in support.

But the country’s economic troubles have stirred grumbling among many Egyptians, who are seeing their living standards slide even as the state has spent heavily on mega projects.

“We forgot what a power cut was,” said Karim Mahrous, a resident of al-Asmarat, a Cairo neighborhood of social housing developed under Sisi where people said the power was being cut for an hour at a time.

“When electricity goes off once or twice a day and other places do not even have power cuts that last a quarter of an hour, this is called injustice.”

Power cuts have not been a significant problem since the turmoil that followed the overthrow of former

President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt’s 2011 uprising.

At that time, frequent outages helped turn opinion against Egypt’s leader, the Muslim Brotherhood’s Mohamed Mursi, before Sisi led his ouster in July 2013.

Sisi’s critics see echoes of that time in the power cuts that began in July and have been implemented according to a published schedule since the start of August. Residents say they have hit some areas harder than others, fuelling a sense of inequality.

## Experts... (Continued From Page One)

have sparked unprecedented protests, scare a tech industry that accounts for almost a fifth of Israel’s gross domestic product and about 30% of tax income. Some entrepreneurs already appear to be voting with their feet.

As many as 80% of new Israeli tech startups in 2023 have so far chosen to incorporate in Delaware, up from 20% in 2022, according to an Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) survey that also showed companies intend to register future IP overseas.

“The fact that you are shaking up the judicial system puts Israel in a very high level of uncertainty and investors don’t like uncertainty,” said IIA Chairman Ami Applebaum, who is also chief scientist at the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology.

Yair Geva, a partner who runs the tech group at law firm Herzog, Fox and Neeman, said that not only were new Israeli companies incorporating in Delaware, but some existing ones were expanding research and other operations outside of the occupied Palestinian territories.

“So, it’s somewhat of a bigger issue than just the incorporation aspect of it,” he said.

A survey of 615 firms by Startup Nation Central showed that 8% of Israeli startup/tech companies had started moving their headquarters abroad, and 29% intended to do so soon.

Adam Fisher, a partner at Bessemer Venture Partners and long-time investor in Israeli startups, has been invested in Israeli-based tech firms over the past decade. But now he recommends entrepreneurs incorporate in Delaware and open an Israeli unit.

Pilots Warn Gallant

Separately, pilots in the Israeli air force reserves reportedly warned Tuesday that they may not be willing to carry out attacks on behalf of Israel should it slide into authoritarianism, expressing sympathy for colleagues who have suspended volunteer duty to protest the regime’s designs on the judiciary.

The pilots made the comments during a meeting with war minister Yoav Gallant as he sought to bridge a growing divide between the regime and military, the Ynet news website reported.

Airmen who met with Gallant at the Ramon air base in southern Occupied Palestine told him they understood their fellow reserves pilots who had already stopped volunteering for training or operational duty to protest the judicial overhaul. They told Gallant that pilots did not want to carry out attacks on behalf of the Zionist regime, and they were considering joining the revolt, the news site reported.

While some in the regime have rejected the protest as politically tainted, some servicemembers have explained that changes to Israel’s judiciary could leave them liable to international tribunals, which can be activated in cases where the local judicial system is seen as insufficiently independent.

According to the unsourced Ynet report, Gallant’s visit to Ramon was touched off by concerns over a series of attacks by coalition members on the air force after its top general Tomer Bar publicly warned Friday that the protest was increasingly degrading military fitness.

Coalition members, including reportedly Netanyahu, have fumed at Bar and military chief of staff Herzi Halevi for reporting on the worsening state of military readiness in light of the reserves protest, which they have complained is tantamount to the army exerting political pressure. Netanyahu reportedly shouted at Bar and Halevi during a Friday phone call for disclosing worries about damage to the illegal entity’s defenses wrought by the reservists suspending volunteer duty to protest his regime and its judicial overhaul agenda.

## Ukraine... (Continued From Page One)

does not change and war criminals are not

punished, the war will definitely return with Russia’s appetite for more.”

But Ukraine’s position is being tested by the slow progress of its counteroffensive which began in June. Although Kyiv has received donations of Western tanks and long-range rockets and artillery, its forces have so far made only limited territorial gains against heavily defended Russia positions.

NATO put out a clarifying statement on Tuesday night aimed at cooling the row. “We will continue to support Ukraine as long as necessary, and we are committed to achieving a just and lasting peace. The position of the alliance is clear and has not changed,” a spokesperson said.

However, discussions about how peace might be achieved are unlikely to subside even as both sides continue to fight on. “I’m not saying it has to be like this. But that could be a possible solution,” Jenssen said.

## Like... (Continued From Page One)

the deadliest in the U.S. in more than a century, and Green had previously warned that scores more bodies could be found.

“Many of the fatalities were on the road, down by the sea,” Green told ABC’s “Good Morning America” on Wednesday. “So the numbers will increase, but they will not increase — we hope — to ... catastrophic proportions. We just don’t know yet.”

The governor added that officials are considering cutting off power during the storms as a precautionary measure.

The local power utility has faced criticism for leaving power on as strong winds from a passing hurricane buffeted a parched area last week, and one video shows a cable dangling in a charred patch of grass, surrounded by flames, in the early moments of the wildfire. The cause of the wildfires, some of which are still burning, is still under investigation.

Hawaiian Electric Co. Inc. President and CEO Shelee Kimura said many factors go into a decision to cut power, including the impact on people who rely on specialized medical equipment and concerns that a shut-off in the fire area would have knocked out water pumps.

Maui Police Chief John Pelletier renewed an appeal for families with missing relatives to provide DNA samples.

Federal officials sent a mobile morgue unit with coroners, pathologists and technicians to Hawaii to help identify the dead, said Johna than Greene, a deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The morgue unit included 22 tons of supplies and equipment such as mortuary examination tables and X-ray units, Greene said.

Gov. Green told Hawaii News Now that children are among the dead.

“When the bodies are smaller, we know it’s a child,” he said, describing some of the sites being searched as “too much to share or see from just a human perspective.”

The blaze that swept into Lahaina last week destroyed nearly every building in the town of 13,000. That fire has been 85% contained, according to the county. Another blaze known as the Upcountry fire was 75% contained as of Tuesday evening.

The Lahaina fire caused about \$3.2 billion in insured property losses, according to calculations by Karen Clark & Company, a prominent disaster and risk modeling company. That doesn’t count damage to uninsured property. The firm said more than 2,200 buildings were damaged or destroyed by flames, with about 3,000 damaged by fire, smoke or both.

Lahaina resident Kekoa Lansford helped rescue people as the flames swept through town. Now he is collecting stories from survivors, hoping to create a timeline of what happened.

The scene was haunting. “Horrible, horrible,” Lansford said. “You ever seen hell in the movies? That is what it looked like. Fire everywhere. Dead people.”

## Yazid... (Continued From Page One)

was the turn of Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) to speak, he delivered an electrifying sermon on the God-given merits of the Ahl al-Bayt that stunned the filthy tyrant. As the people of Syria, shocked at the unpardonable crime their ruler had committed, started weeping, Yazid ordered the muezzin (caller to prayer) to recite the Azaan, although it was not yet time for the ritual prayer.

When the muezzin said: “Allahu Akbar”, Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) said: “You have acknowledged as great the Greatest One Who cannot be measured and cannot be perceived by senses; there is nothing greater than Allah.”

When the muezzin recited: “Ashhadu an la ilaha illa Allah,” (I testify there is no god except Allah), the Imam said: “My hair, my skin, my flesh, my blood, my brain, and my bones bear witness that there is no god but Allah.”

When the muezzin chanted: “Ashhadu anna Muhammadan Rasool-Allah,” (I testify that Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah), the Imam turned to Yazid and asked him: “O Yazid, is Muhammad (SAWA) (your grandfather or mine? If you say that he is yours, then you are a liar, and if you admit that he is mine, then why did you kill his grandson and family?”

Yazid stormed out of the court in anger, while the people of Syria on realizing the identity of the noble captives, started protesting at the unpardonable crimes the Omayyad regime has committed.

Thus, with their bold sermons, the noble aunt and nephew ripped off the mask of hypocrisy from the face of the ungodly Omayyad regime (the “Shajarat al-Malooona” or the Accursed Tree mentioned by God in the Holy Qur’an), and exposed Yazid in his true heathen colours.