

Drones, Rockets Target U.S. Bases in Iraq, Syria

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Two military bases housing U.S. occupation troops in Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region and Syria’s northeastern province of Hasakah have been struck by drones and a barrage of rockets.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, in a statement published on its Telegram channel claimed responsibility for the attack on the al-Harir Air Base, situated 45 kilometers (27.9 miles) north of the Erbil International Airport in northern Iraq, early on Saturday morning.

It noted that the base was targeted by two drones and the aircraft “directly hit their targets,” linking the assault to Washington’s unconditional support for the Zionist regime’s bloody military campaign against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed a 14-billion-dollar aid bill, which includes billions for the Zionist regime’s military, including \$4bn for procurement of the Zionist



U.S. soldiers prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during an exercise at al-Asad Air Base in Iraq on July 7, 2023.

regime’s Iron Dome and David’s Sling systems to counter Palestinian retaliatory rocket attacks.

Various U.S. officials have also supported the occupying regime’s war on Gaza and rejected any ceasefire plan at the UN.

Washington last month vetoed a draft UN Security Council resolution that would have called for humanitarian pauses in the conflict between the occupying regime and Hamas and allow humanitarian aid access to the Gaza Strip.

The brutal war that the Tel Aviv regime has been waging against the besieged Palestinian enclave since October 7 has so far claimed the lives of nearly 10,000 people, including 3,700 children and more than 2,300 women.

Also late on Friday night, a volley of rockets rained down on a military base, where occupying American forces and allied militants are stationed, in northeastern Syria.

Lebanon’s Arabic-language

al-Mayadeen television news network, citing local sources, reported that explosions were heard inside the U.S. base at the Abu Hajar Airport near the village of Kharab al-Jir, after a number of rockets fell in the area.

There were no immediate reports about possible casualties and the extent of damage caused.

Meanwhile, the head of the Iraqi resistance group Harakat Hezbollah Nujaba says the ongoing battle against U.S. occupation forces will continue until they are fully withdrawn from the Iraqi soil.

Akram al-Kaabi, founder and secretary-general of the movement, stated on Friday night that “This is a life and death battle against a cunning enemy. Either they or we should stay here.”

He added, “The Iraqi resistance is ready to mobilize its ground forces, who have overcome Daesh terrorists and other Takfiri militants in Iraq and neighboring Syria, and join the battle against Zionists.”

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is revealed in their all-out support of the child-killing Zionist regime,” the statement said.

They also censured Western media attempts to distort reports of Israeli crimes and atrocities in Gaza.

“Despite the efforts of the Western media in distorting and attenuating the crimes of the Zionist regime, freedom-seeking people were able to bring the events to the world’s attention through social networks and explanation,” the communiqué said.

“This action removed the mask from the face of the child-killing Zionist regime and its supporters, and the truth of the oppression of the Palestinian people has been revealed to everyone,” it added.

The Iranian students called on the justice-seeking people of the world to ramp up pressure on Western politicians by explaining, narrating and expanding the pro-Palestine gatherings, and demanded an immediate stop to the bombing of the Palestinian people by the Zionist regime.

The demonstration began in Palestine Square in central Tehran. Protesters walked for nearly two kilometers till they reached the former U.S. embassy compound. National TV showed footage of similar rallies in other Iranian cities and towns.

The annual rally is a venue for anti-Western sentiments and usually draws huge crowds.

On Wednesday Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei slammed the U.S. for its support of Israel, saying the Zionist entity would have been paralyzed without American support.

He called for an end to the Israeli atrocities and for Muslim-majority nations to halt economic cooperation with the Zionist regime.

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In response, rockets were launched from southern Lebanon at Zionist targets near the border.

Hezbollah’s Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Friday warned Israel against any major operation against Lebanon, saying that “all options are on the table on the Lebanese front”.

In Jordan, meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected calls for a ceasefire during a meeting with his Arab counterparts in Amman. He claimed that a truce would leave Hamas in a position to regroup and carry out similar attacks to the one on October 7 which killed around 1,400 Zionists.

Blinken was set to meet the Saudi, Qatari, Lebanese, Emirati, Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers, as well as Palestinian representatives, who will press for an immediate ceasefire. Blinken will also visit Turkey for two days from Sunday as part of a regional tour.

Turkey on Saturday recalled its ambassador to Israel in view of “the ongoing humanitarian tragedy in Gaza caused by continued attacks on civilians and Israel’s refusal [to accept] a ceasefire,” the Turkish foreign ministry said.

In London, tens of hundreds of people gathered outside the BBC offices to demand a ceasefire and criticize the network’s coverage of the war. A sit-in was also staged in Oxford Circus, one of the busiest parts of the capital.

More than 600 academics and scholars co-signed an open letter,

demanding that universities in Ireland suspend all ties with the occupying regime of Israel.

The letter states: “The scale and severity of Israel’s current war on the Gaza Strip has exceeded all previous levels of violence in the prolonged and brutal Israeli occupation of Palestine. It is a campaign of ethnic cleansing and, according to many experts, genocidal violence.”

“The dehumanizing language and tropes widely used by Israeli leaders in reference to Palestinians echo those typically associated with genocidal incitement and intent,” the letter read.

Among those who have signed the letter are Professor Kathleen Lynch and Professor Eugenia Sapienza, both from University College Dublin, and Professor Aoife O’Donoghue, from Queen’s University, Belfast.

In the occupied West Bank, Zionist settlers mounted an Israeli flag on the minaret of a mosque in the occupied West Bank, in the latest example of increased attacks.

The mosque is in the Al-Fawwar refugee camp, close to Al-Khalil. According to local media reports, settlers also removed photos and posters that had been left in remembrance of those killed in Israeli attacks.

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is no point in holding any negotiations.”

Ukrainian and Russian delegations are currently discussing three main issues, as reported by The Washington Post: the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of the bodies of deceased soldiers, the passage of ships through the Black Sea, and the repatriation of Ukrainian children from Russia.

Since the beginning of the war in February 2022, Ukrainian officials have consistently rejected peace talks with Russia.

Last month, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder revealed that Ukraine had requested his mediation in talks with Russia at the war’s onset, but no agreement on this had been reached.

In September, President Zelensky signed a decree issued by the National Security and Defense Council, making negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin impossible.

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Vieira stressed the need for establishing a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and dispatching humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave.

During a telephone conversation on Saturday, Amirabdollahian and Vieira discussed the latest developments in Gaza.

Referring to the efforts of the Brazilian government in submitting a draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council over ending the conflict in Gaza, the top Iranian diplomat stressed the need for establishing a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and dispatching humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave.

Vieira, for his part, pointed to Iran’s pivotal role in the region and hailed Iran’s constructive efforts in establishing peace and security in the region and the world.

Calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and sending humanitarian aid to Gazans, he stressed the need to provide an opportunity for the safe withdrawal of foreign nationals from the enclave.

Palestine Prisoners Subjected to Heinous Crimes Amid War in Gaza

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – As the Zionist regime’s aggression on Gaza started, significant arrests and violations against Palestinians took place in the West Bank camps. Violations of Palestinians arrested by the occupation troops were documented, including being subjected to torture, inhumane treatment, beatings and being dragged along the ground.

The Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK) emphasized that these arrests and the violations accompanying them are crimes against humanity, whose perpetrators must face deterrent penalties. Furthermore, countries that support the occupying regime must realize that they are complicit in these crimes, which are unjustifiable under any legal or humanitarian grounds.

The occupation is guaranteed impunity for all its crimes and

knows that the position of the countries supporting it will not change despite the ongoing massacres it commits, including the current war on Gaza, which has left more than 9,000 dead and around 32,000 wounded so far.

The Israeli occupation is imposing a policy of collective punishment of Palestinian civilians. It publishes pictures and videos to humiliate and insult the prisoners and suppress any attempt to demand the inalienable rights of the people to reject Israeli aggression and war crimes, desecration of sanctities, illegal settlement expansion and other grave daily crimes.

Meanwhile, Palestinian workers from Gaza detained by Israel have described being abused, humiliated and tortured for four weeks after being swept up in response to the 7 October Hamas-led operation.

Around 4,500 laborers from Gaza were estimated to be in the occupied territories.

Despite being on work permits, they were all rounded up in detention facilities, and repeatedly humiliated and abused according to first-hand accounts.

Workers recently released by Israel told Middle East Eye their work permits had been revoked and they were sent back to Gaza on foot, despite the coastal enclave being under constant bombardment and now subject to an Israeli ground invasion.

The workers were forced to walk for 6km until they arrived in Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing near the southern Gaza town of Rafah.

The Palestinians told MEE of various abuses in detention, many of which appear to amount to torture.

“They took our phones. One man asked me if I wanted anything to drink, then he threw boiling water at me,” an elderly man said.

“When we were released and had to walk back to Gaza, one man died. He just dropped dead as he was walking,” another worker, originally from Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, said.

“They treated us like dogs, they interrogated us while in Tel Aviv. We had our hands tied behind our backs and were barely given any food or drink,” he added.

“Young boys the same age as my children stripped us and urinated on us... no one has mentioned us workers held in Israel, not the Red Cross; the Palestinian Authority betrayed us, the whole world betrayed us,” one worker told Al Jazeera upon his arrival in Gaza.

UAE: U.S. ‘Policy of Containment’ on Israel Has Failed

DUBAI (Dispatches) – The diplomatic adviser to the president of the United Arab Emirates on Saturday said the United States needs to push for a quick end to the Zionist war and that a new process must be found for the decades-long Israeli issue or the United States would be seen as ineffective.

Anwar Gargash also said that the occupying regime’s policy of containment that has been the “hallmark” of the Palestinian is-

sue for the past two decades had failed and called for a new approach that addresses refugees, borders and East Al-Quds.

“U.S. involvement will be seen by when we end this war, the quicker the better, and whether we can have another you know, sort of process at problem solving, at issue solving,” he said at a policy conference in the capital Abu Dhabi.

“If this crisis continues, and es-

pecially the humanitarian side, and if this crisis, brings us back full circle, to the old containment policy of pre-Seventh of October, I think the American role here is not going to be, forget right and wrong, is not going to be seen as effective,” he added.

The UAE was the most prominent Arab state to sign the 2020 so-called Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by the U.S. to establish diplomatic ties with the

Zionist regime that broke with decades of pan-Arab policy that called for a Palestinian state before normalization.

A Persian Gulf Arab power, the UAE is one the United States’ closest partners in the Middle East and hosts U.S. forces. It has also pursued a more independent and assertive foreign policy over the past decade, demonstrated by its ties with the occupying regime.

German Club Terminates El Ghazi’s Contract Over Pro-Palestine Post

BERLIN (Dispatches) – German club Mainz has cancelled Anwar El Ghazi’s contract after he posted a message on social media condemning the killing of Palestinians in Gaza.

The former Everton and Aston Villa forward was suspended by the Bundesliga club on 17 October, two days after he uploaded the post. He has since deleted it and written a num-

ber of posts to clarify his position, saying: “I want to make clear that I’m standing for peace above everything. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of all the innocent victims, and those who are still missing.”

In a social media post on Saturday he wrote: “Stand for what is right, even if it means

standing alone.’ The loss of my livelihood is nothing when compared to the hell being unleashed on the innocent and vulnerable in Gaza.”

The 28-year-old, who also previously played for PSV Eindhoven, joined Mainz as a free agent in September and made three appearances as a substitute.