

CAIRO (AFP) – Egyptian former presidential hopeful Ahmed al-Tantawi will face trial for circulating unauthorized endorsement forms for Egypt's upcoming elections, a campaign member and rights defenders said Tuesday.

Tantawi, who withdrew his bid for the presidency last month after failing to gather enough endorsements to run, will face criminal court on charges of "circulating election-related papers without official authorization," leading human rights defender Hossam Bahgat wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

To refrain from unlawful and impious source of pleasures is an ornament to the poor and to be thankful for the riches granted is the adornment of wealth.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## 45 American Troops Injured in Recent Attacks

# U.S. Bases in Iraq, Syria Targeted Again

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Two major U.S.-run military bases in Syria's northeastern province of Hasakah and Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region have been once again targeted by drones, amid smoldering anti-U.S. sentiments in the region over its unconditional support for the Zionist regime's onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

Citing local sources speaking on condition of anonymity, Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network reported that several unmanned aerial vehicles struck targets inside the U.S. military installation near al-Khadra village in Hasakah province early on Tuesday morning.

There were no immediate reports about the extent of damage at the military facility, and possible casualties.

Earlier, a drone attack targeted U.S. troops based near the Erbil International Airport.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, has claimed responsibility for most of the dozens of recent attacks against U.S. oc-



Al-Harir Airbase that houses the American troops in the Kurdistan region in northern Iraq

cupation forces in Iraq and Syria, saying they were carried out in retaliation for U.S. support of the Zionist regime's bloody military campaign against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The Iraqi anti-terror group said, for the first time they launched Al-Aqsa 1 medium-range missile against the U.S. occupation's bases in Iraq and Syria.

The group said in a statement that, "In the context of respond-

ing to the Israeli occupation's crimes in its aggression on Gaza under US diktats and administration, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq reveals Monday, and for the first time, the putting into the medium range Aqsa 1 into service, wherein it was launched at U.S. occupation bases in Iraq and Syria in some of its operations."

The latest attacks came two days after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made an

unannounced visit to Baghdad amid stern warnings from the Iraqi resistance.

Pentagon officials said on Monday that more than twice as many U.S. troops may have been injured in recent attacks in Iraq and Syria than the Pentagon previously disclosed.

They said at least 45 Americans are reporting injuries or potential traumatic brain injuries.

The Pentagon previously said 21 soldiers received minor injuries in attacks on U.S. forces at al-Tanf base in southern Syria and on al-Asad air base in western Iraq late last month.

Since October 17, there have been at least 38 separate attacks on bases housing US forces in Syria and Iraq, mainly by drones, mortars or rockets.

The two attacks that caused the injuries were both on October 18 and targeted al-Tanf and al-Asad bases.

Anti-U.S. sentiment has been running high in the region since Israel launched the war on Gaza with Washington's untrammeled support.

## Hezbollah Deputy Head Sheikh Qassem: Operation Al-Aqsa Flood 'a Turning Point' in Future of Palestine



Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem talks during an interview with Press TV on November 7, 2023.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- A senior official with the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has hailed the "unprecedented" Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against the Israel regime, describing it as a "turning point" for the future of Palestine.

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood "is an exceptional operation which is unprecedented since the establishment of the Zionist regime in ... 1948 and we believe it will be a turning point for the future," Sheikh Naim Qassem, Hezbollah deputy secretary general, said during an interview with Press TV on Tuesday.

"It planted the seeds which would lead to the regression and downfall of the regime, since it uncovered that the Israeli security capabilities are extremely weak. The Israeli army is very weak. And the politicians know nothing and cannot envision the future," he added.

Sheikh Qassem went on to say that the Zionist regime is "an artificial entity" which shows it has strength, on the face of it, but in reality it has a deep weakness, not only in its occupation and aggressive project but also in the performance of its military and security apparatus.

The Hezbollah official noted that "the great and marvelous" Operation Al-Aqsa Flood was the work of a dignified and influential resistance" and was "indicative of courage, audacity and righteousness" of Palestinians.

"We consider that what we are witnessing was a great operation which will impact ... the Palestinian cause," he said.

Sheikh Qassem also noted that

the objective of all resistance groups is to defeat Israel and gain victory. Therefore, he said, the resistance groups need to cooperate since "this operation was a great success."

"If any branch or any faction in resistance alliance is victorious, this means that all the resistance in the region has been victorious," he said.

Regarding Hezbollah's military action in support of the Palestinians, Sheikh Qassem said the Lebanese movement's participation in this battle is part and parcel of the operation of the resistance, stressing that joint efforts are needed to put an end to Israel's aggression against civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Israel launched its war on Gaza on October 7 after Palestinian resistance movement Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood into the occupied territories in response to the Israeli regime's intensified crimes against the Palestinian people.

Tel Aviv has also blocked water, food, and electricity to Gaza, plunging the coastal strip into a humanitarian crisis.

Hezbollah has been involved in clashes with Israel since the regime launched an all-out invasion on Gaza last month.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said on Friday that all options are on the table against Israel, urging the Zionist regime to stop its aggression against Palestinians in Gaza immediately.

Speaking in a televised speech, Nasrallah repeated that Hezbollah is ready for all possibilities.

## Russia: Israel's Nuclear Option Remark Raises 'Huge Number of Questions'

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russian officials have joined other countries in expressing concern over the remarks of an Israeli junior minister who appeared to express openness to the idea of the Zionist regime carrying out a nuclear strike on Gaza, saying that it raises a "huge number of questions".

Moscow's reaction came on Tuesday, days after heritage minister Amihai Eliyahu, said during a radio interview, that the nuclear option would be "one way" to

deal with Gaza, implying that, not only is Israel in possession of nuclear weapons – something the occupying regime has never admitted – but that it is also willing to use them.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday suspended the minister from a far-right party in the coalition cabinet and from cabinet meetings "until further notice".

Maria Zakharova, Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman, said

that the main issue was that Israel appeared to have admitted that it had nuclear weapons.

"Question number one – it turns out that we are hearing official statements about the presence of nuclear weapons?" Zakharova was quoted as saying by state RIA news agency.

If so, she said, then where are the International Atomic Energy Agency and international nuclear inspectors?

The Federation of American

Scientists estimates the Zionist regime has about 90 nuclear warheads.

On Monday, the United States condemned Eliyahu's comments as "wholly unacceptable".

"We continue to believe that it is important for all sides of this conflict to refrain from hateful rhetoric," deputy State Department spokesperson Vedant Patel told a briefing.

The remarks also drew condemnation from around the Arab world and Iran called for a swift international response.

"The UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency must take immediate and uninterrupted action to disarm this barbaric and apartheid regime," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on social media on Monday. "Tomorrow is late," he posted on X.

## Turkey Dumps Coke, Nestle From Menus Over Israel Support

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey's parliament removed Coca-Cola and Nestle products from its restaurants on Tuesday over their support for the Zionist regime amid the conflict in Gaza, according to an official statement and a source who named the two companies.

The two companies did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The products of companies that support Israel will not be sold in restaurants, cafeterias and tea houses in the parliament campus," Turkey's Grand National Assembly said, without identifying the companies.

Speaker Numan Kurtulmus made the decision, it added, in order to "support public sensitivity regarding boycotting products of companies who have openly declared their sup-

port for the Zionist regime's war crimes (and) killing of innocent people in Gaza".

A parliamentary source said Coca-Cola beverages and Nestle instant coffee were the only brands removed from menus, adding the decision was meant to respond to "huge public outcry against these companies" for supporting Israel.

Neither the parliament statement nor the source specified how Coca-Cola and Nestle supported Israel's war effort.

Last month Nestle said it temporarily shut down one of its production plants in Israel as a "precaution", becoming the first consumer products giant to announce a response to the war.

Turkish activists have in recent days named both companies in social media posts that call for boycotts of Israeli

goods and Western companies they view as endorsing the occupying regime.

The Turkish parliament's move is among the first by a government or major organization to target big global brands over the month-long war by the occupying regime.

Over the past month, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his government have sharply criticized the Zionist regime's assault on Gaza and Western support for Al-Quds.

The occupying regime has bombarded Gaza October 7. Gaza health officials say the regime's assault has killed more than 10,000 Palestinians, including some 4,100 children.

Hundreds of thousands of Turks have taken to the streets to protest against Israeli operations into Gaza over the past month.

## Hezbollah MP: Resistance to Respond 'Double' Over Lebanese Civilians Hurt

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – A Hezbollah lawmaker said on Tuesday that the Lebanese resistance movement would respond "double" to any attacks by the Zionist regime on civilians after a strike that killed three children and their grandmother in south Lebanon.

The remarks reflect the volatile situation on the Israeli-Lebanese border, where deadly clashes between Zionist troops and Hezbollah fighters are fuelling fears of a wider regional war while the regime invades the Gaza Strip.

"The resistance will respond dou-

ble to any aggression that targets civilians," Ali Fayyad said at the funeral of the four Lebanese killed in the south on Sunday.

"It hasn't yet shown all its weight," he said, referring to the powerful resistance movement. He did not elaborate.

Lebanese authorities said an airstrike by the occupying regime hit the car the family was travelling in on Sunday. The regime's military said its troops engaged a vehicle in Lebanon which was "identified as a suspected transport for terrorists" and it was looking into reports there were civilians inside.

At the funeral, the family cried over four coffins draped in the flags of Lebanon and of a local scouts organization. A banner of the three girls, who were aged between 10 and 14, said they were martyrs and featured the emblem of Hezbollah.

Violence at the Lebanese border is the deadliest there since 2006 as Israel bombards Hezbollah's Palestinian ally Hamas in Gaza - a response to an Oct. 7 Hamas attack on the Israeli-occupied towns.

The occupying regime's bombardment of Gaza has killed 10,000 Palestinians, health officials in the enclave say.