

Iraq: U.S. Responsible for Repercussions of Airstrike in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraq held the U.S.-led occupation forces responsible for repercussions of the attack on Iraqi popular Hashd Sha'abi Forces in Babil province south of Baghdad, Iraqi military spokesman Yahya Rasoul said on Wednesday.

"The coalition forces have committed a heinous crime and blatant aggression" when they targeted military bases belonging to the Iraqi security forces in northern Babil province Tuesday night, killing and wounding several members of the Hashd Sha'abi forces, said Rasoul in a statement.

Such attacks can significantly undermine all efforts, mechanisms, and frameworks in Iraq and Syria, Rasoul warned, adding that the attack also risks dragging Iraq and the entire region into dangerous conflicts and wars.



Members of Iraq's anti-terror resistance group Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), also known as Hashd al-Sha'abi, hold a military parade in the town of al-Khalis, Diyala province, eastern Iraq, on July 23, 2022.

Iraq would take appropriate legal and diplomatic measures to protect its rights and ensure its security and sovereignty, the spokesman stressed.

On Tuesday night, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua that unknown drones bombed a military base of the Hashd Sha'abi forces, also known as Popular Mobiliza-

tion Forces, in the Jurf al-Nasr area in the northern part of Babil province.

On Wednesday, a statement issued by the al-Jazira Operations Command of the Hashd Sha'abi forces accused the United States of conducting three drone attacks on the paramilitary 47th Brigade in the Jurf al-Nasr area, leaving four fighters killed, including a commander named Ahmed Najam Abdul-Zahra.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi militia known as Kataib Hezbollah said in a separate statement that the U.S. drones were launched from neighboring Kuwait while calling on the Iraqi government to take decisive action to end the presence of U.S.-led occupation forces and urging the parliament lawmakers to adopt a clear stance towards expelling American troops from Iraq.

respond to this crime," it said in a statement.

Condemnation... (Continued From Page One)

condemned the assassination of Haniyeh, noting that this posed "a serious danger of expanding the circle of global concern and danger in the region".

Hezbollah said Haniyeh's "martyrdom will increase the determination and stubbornness of the resistance fighters in all areas of resistance to continue the path of jihad and will make their resolve stronger in confronting the Zionist enemy".

Syria's foreign ministry warned that the latest escalation could "set the entire region ablaze".

"Syria condemns this blatant Zionist aggression," the ministry said, describing Haniyeh's assassination as a "despicable act".

Yemen's Ansarullah called Haniyeh's assassination a "heinous terrorist crime."

Muhammad Ali al-Houthi, a member of the Iran-backed movement's political bureau, mourned the slain Hamas chief on his account on X and said his targeting was a "flagrant violation of laws and ideal values."

A statement from the Egyptian foreign ministry said this escalation, along with making no progress in Gaza ceasefire talks, was complicating the situation. The ministry warned of the repercussions of assassinations and violating countries' sovereignty.

Jordan condemned in the "strongest" terms the assassination of Haniyeh, saying it was a violation of international and humanitarian law and a crime that will escalate the situation and create more tension and chaos in the region.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday condemned the "perfidious assassination" in Tehran of his close ally and "brother" Ismail Haniyeh.

"May God have mercy on my brother Ismail Haniyeh, fallen in martyrdom after this odious attack," Erdogan wrote on the X social media platform, denouncing "Zionist barbarity".

Turkey's foreign ministry had earlier denounced the attack as "a shameful assassination".

China said it condemned the "assassination" of Haniyeh in a strike in Tehran, warning it could lead to further instability in the region.

"We are highly concerned about the incident and firmly oppose and condemn the assassination," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said. "We are deeply concerned that this incident may lead to further instability in the regional situation,"

he added. Russia "strongly condemned" the assassination, warning it could trigger a fresh round of escalation in West Asia.

"We believe that such actions are directed against attempts to restore peace in the region and could significantly destabilize an already tense situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Envoy... (Continued From Page 2)

the war and inflict more harm on the civilian population.

"The U.S. and its allies must look in the mirror to understand how Western arms and advanced weaponry, especially from the United States, have prolonged the war in Ukraine and inflicted harm on civilians," he said.

The analyst rejected the anti-Iran allegations by these countries as part of their narrow and shortsighted political agenda.

Iravani denied Iran's involvement in the sale, export, or transfer of arms to the Ukraine war.

He said, "Any allegations suggesting Iran's involvement in the sale, export, or transfer of arms in violation of its international commitments are entirely baseless and categorically denied. Iran once again reaffirms its unwavering commitment to upholding international humanitarian law."

Iran has categorically rejected allegations it is providing ballistic missiles and related technology to Russia, raised by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to be used in the military campaign against Ukraine.

Earlier this month, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said NATO has made "totally baseless and politically-motivated" claims.

The NATO leaders had claimed that North Korea and Iran were fuelling Russia's military operation against Ukraine by providing direct military support to Moscow, such as munitions and uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), which they said impacted Euro-Atlantic security and undermined the global non-proliferation regime.

Iran has never provided Russia with any type of drones during the military conflict in Ukraine and still emphasizes the importance of settling the crisis and establishing lasting peace through political channels, the diplomat pointed out.

Iran has repeatedly rejected accusations that it has supplied weapons to Russia for direct use in the war in Ukraine. It has also discarded allegations of supplying weapons to anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. groups in the region.

King's College London Submits to Pro-Palestine Student Protests

LONDON (Dispatches) – King's College London has announced plans to revise its investment policy on arms companies, following a series of pro-Palestine protests by students on its campuses, The Times reported on Wednesday.

The decision, which has been under consideration since April, was confirmed in a statement by the vice president of the King's College London Students' Union, on Instagram.

"The university will no longer invest in companies engaged in the production or distribution of

controversial weapons," Hassan Ali said.

The agreement among university finance executives was finalized on Monday, with a formal decision expected to be completed in October. This change will be reflected in the university's environment, social and governance framework under a new "controversial weapons" clause.

The clause specifies that King's College London will "not hold any direct or indirect (via pooled funds) investments in companies deemed to be en-

gaged in controversial weapons."

The definition of controversial weapons in this context includes cluster bombs, land mines, depleted uranium weapons, chemical and biological weapons, blinding laser weapons, non-detectable fragments, and incendiary weapons such as white phosphorus. The university has committed to regular monitoring to ensure compliance with these new guidelines.

Ali described the development as "a testament to the power of our community's dedication and

perseverance."

King's College London has seen numerous demonstrations, including walkouts, sit-ins and encampments, since the Zionist regime launched its war on Gaza, student newspaper Roar News reported.

The protests, which began in October, reflect a broader wave of activism across British universities, where students have criticized their institutions for being "complicit in genocide" and have called for divestment from Israeli and military companies supplying arms to Israel.

Australia Affirms Policy on Golan Heights as Occupied Territory

SYDNEY (Dispatches) – The Australian government has reiterated its stance that the Golan Heights is occupied territory, following recent comments by Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who referred to the area as a "northern Israeli town," The Guardian reported on Wednesday.

Wong's remarks, made in a statement posted on social media platforms X and Instagram, sparked a wave of online reactions questioning whether she had acknowledged the Zionist regime's sovereignty over the region, which the regime captured from Syria during the 1967 Six-Day War.

It follows a rocket attack on a

town football pitch in the Golan Heights that killed 12 children.

The controversy arose from Wong's post, which began with the statement: "Australia unequivocally condemns the strike on the northern Israeli town of Majdal Shams." Notably, the statement did not refer to the Golan Heights as occupied territory.

This omission prompted concern from groups such as the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network, which described the language used as "alarming," highlighting that international recognition of the Zionist regime's 'sovereignty' over the Golan Heights is limited, pre-

dominantly acknowledged only by the regime and the U.S. under the Trump administration.

In response, a spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade clarified that there had been no change in Australia's policy. "There is no change in our position that the Golan Heights are occupied by Israel, as determined by the UN Security Council," the spokesperson told Guardian Australia. "Our longstanding position is that the Golan Heights are a matter for Israel and Syria to determine through negotiations in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement."

A government source ex-

plained that the intent behind Wong's statement was to underscore the dangers of escalation and to condemn the strikes that resulted in civilian casualties in Majdal Shams. The source added that the post "acknowledged the fact that the town is administered and occupied by Israel."

The issue gained further attention following a visit by Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Majdal Shams, a predominantly Druze village. Netanyahu's visit was met with protest from local residents.

The international community has long contested the regime's occupation of the Golan Heights.

the loss of the Palestinian resistance leader.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the assassination will further consolidate the bond between the two nations, noting that the path of resistance will continue stronger than ever.

Iran, he said, is mourning "the all-time and proud follower of the path of resistance, the brave leader of the Palestinian resistance, the martyr of Al-Quds, Haj Ismail Haniyeh".

"Yesterday, I raised his victorious hand and today I should carry him on my shoulders," Pezeshkian further wrote, adding, "The bond between the two proud nations of Iran and Palestine will be stronger than ever, and the path of resistance and protection of the oppressed will be followed stronger than ever."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will

defend its territorial integrity, honor and dignity, and make the terrorist occupiers regret their cowardly act," Pezeshkian added.

Iranian Foreign Ministry: Haniyeh's blood, sacrifices 'will not go in vain'

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the blood and sacrifices of the late head of the political bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas will not be wasted.

Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said the martyrdom of Haniyeh in Tehran will further bolster the deep and unbreakable bond between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Palestine and the resistance.

The ministry called for global action against Israel, saying the attack is another manifestation of the aggressive and law-breaking nature of

the "criminal mafia ruling the occupied land of Palestine."

Iran "expects countries and international organizations to seriously and effectively hold the Israeli regime accountable and take necessary political, legal, and punitive measures against this rogue regime in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their legitimate resistance against occupation," a statement by the ministry said.

The statement said the criminal act is part of the broader campaign of genocide Israel pursues in Gaza and is aimed at increasing insecurity in West Asia.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said the assassination "will be met with a harsh and painful response."

"Iran and the resistance front will

Martyrdom... (Continued From Page One)

but not before delivering the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt from the thorniest periods of their life. These were Abdullah bin Zubayr's 10-year misrule in Hijaz, the Omayyad usurper Abdul-Malik's regaining of power in Damascus, and his tyrannical governor Hajjaj's twenty-year rule of terror in Iraq. He was 57 years old and laid to eternal rest beside his uncle and father-in-law, Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS) in the sacred Baqie Cemetery, which in 1926 the criminal Wahhabis blasphemously desecrated. He bequeathed to humanity a treasure trove of guidance for success in life and salvation in afterlife. He expounded the tenets of Islam, elaborated various rights (including the rights of our own bodily organs), and taught us the "Munajaat" (whispered prayers) and supplications, whose contents range from the fundamentals of faith and moral virtues to scientific issues. The huge gathering of mourners of all strata of society accompanying the coffin of Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) was the first instance of a member of the Infallible Household accorded a public funeral. It is an irony of Islamic history that only a few people had attended the last rites of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) as the majority of his companions were busy at the scandalous gathering of Saqifa Bani Sa'da to usurp political rule. Hazrat Fatema Zahra's (SA) funeral was in the dead of night as per her Last Will that those who had hurt her feelings, physically injured her to cause miscarriage, and deprived her husband of his right of political leadership of the Ummah, should not attend. Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), on his martyrdom in Kufa, Iraq, was also secretly laid to rest in the dead of night, with only a few of his loyal companions knowing the site of his grave. The Omayyad regime attacked Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba's (AS) funeral in Medina with a volley of arrows that riddled his coffin and pierced his body. Imam Husain (AS) was tragically martyred in Karbala by the Omayyads who beheaded his body, trampled it with horses, and left it without burial.

Leader... (Continued From Page One)

condolences to the Islamic Ummah, the resistance front, the proud nation of Palestine as well as Haniyeh's family and one of his companions, who was martyred with him.

Ayatollah Khamenei will lead prayers over Haniyeh's body at Tehran University to start his funeral procession on Thursday.

The procession will move towards Azadi (Freedom) Square before Haniyeh's body is taken to Qatar's capital, Doha, for burial on Friday.

Iranian authorities announced that rigorous investigations have been launched into the assassination and the results will subsequently be released.

The Islamic Republic has declared three days of national mourning for