

Yemen Warns of Consequences of Regional Developments for West

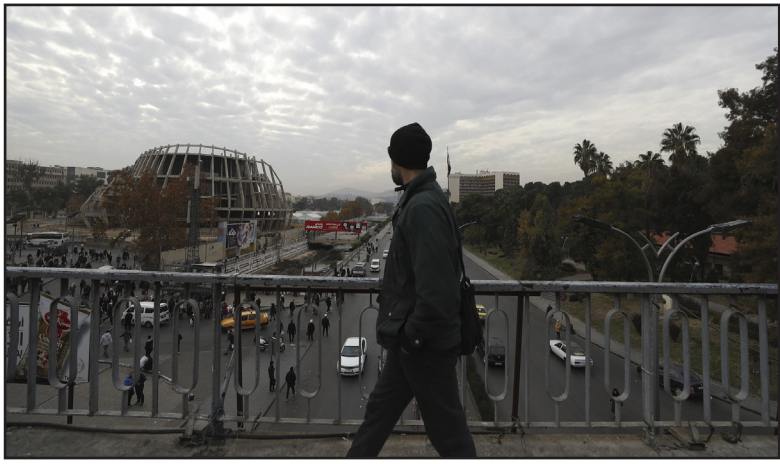
SANA’A (Dispatches) – The deputy foreign minister of the Sana’a-based Yemeni government, Hussein al-Ezzi, has said that the recent developments in the region will have shocking consequences for the West.

In a post on his X account on Tuesday, al-Ezzi highlighted that many significant developments and events are emerging, particularly in the Arab world and globally.

He continued, “These developments and events will bring numerous challenges and issues, the consequences of which could be shocking and disappointing for the future of the West in both the region and the world, especially if the United States does not amend its hostile and aggressive stance towards nations.”

Two days prior, he had declared, “What is happening in Syria directly serves the interests of Zionism.”

Early on Sunday, the government of Bashar al-Assad fell after armed groups led by Hayat Tahrir



A man walks along a pedestrian bridge in Damascus, Syria, December 7, 2024.

al-Sham (HTS) took control of the capital Damascus, the seat of Assad’s government.

It came less than two weeks after the groups began their attacks across Syria and soon advanced toward Damascus.

Officials and diplomats from various countries have also reacted to the developments.

Qatar’s Foreign Ministry has

reiterated its commitment to engaging with all parties in Syria to shape the country’s future.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, spokesperson Majed al-Ansari emphasized that “all doors and channels of communication” are open, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve progress.

Al-Ansari described the situation

as “historic days for the region,” and that it was a “ray of hope” for the Syrian people to fulfill their aspirations amid ongoing challenges.

He criticized the Zionist regime’s actions in Syria, stating it was unacceptable for Tel Aviv to “exploit” the current circumstances and violate that nation’s sovereignty.

Jordan’s King Abdullah II also called Tuesday for coordinated international efforts to safeguard Syria’s security following the fall of the Bashar al-Assad government.

This came during phone calls the monarch received from NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and European Council President António Costa to discuss regional developments, particularly the situation in Syria.

King Abdullah emphasized the need for unified international efforts to ensure stability in Syria and protect its citizens during the country’s transitional period, the royal court said in a statement.

Federation: Over 100 Journalists Killed This Year, Half in Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) reported Tuesday that 104 journalists and media workers were killed in 2024, with more than half of them killed in Gaza amid ongoing Israeli attacks.

The IFJ’s report said that Gaza became one of the “most dangerous places” for journalists, with 55 fatalities.

Since January, 104 media

workers have been killed globally, including 12 women.

The IFJ called 2024 the “second deadliest year” for journalists since it began tracking deaths in 1990.

West Asia reported the highest number of journalist deaths, with 66 media workers killed in attacks.

The report noted that 55 Palestinians, six Lebanese, and a Syrian journalist were killed in

Gaza and Lebanon.

Since the Zionist regime’s war on Gaza began on Oct. 7, 2023, the number of Palestinian journalists killed has reached 138, making Palestine one of the deadliest countries for journalists, after Iraq, the Philippines, and Mexico.

Following West Asia, Asia-Pacific reported 20 journalist deaths, Africa had eight, the Americas six, and Europe four.

The global journalists’ union also reported that 520 journalists are currently imprisoned worldwide, marking a significant increase over previous years.

IFJ Secretary General Anthony Bellanger called on the UN to adopt a binding treaty to protect journalists, citing the growing risks to press freedom amid rising global authoritarianism.

Russia Takes Step Towards Recognizing Afghanistan’s Taliban Government

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia moved a step closer towards recognizing the Taliban government of Afghanistan on Tuesday as parliament voted in favor of a law that would make it possible to remove the Taliban from Moscow’s list of banned terrorist organizations.

Parliament’s lower house, the Duma, approved the bill in the first of three required readings, Interfax news agency said.

No country currently recognizes the Taliban government which seized power in August 2021 as

U.S.-led forces staged a chaotic withdrawal after 20 years of war. But Russia has been gradually building ties with the movement, which President Vladimir Putin said in July was now an ally in fighting terrorism.

Moscow sees a major security threat from militant groups based in a string of countries from Afghanistan to West Asia, where Russia lost a major ally this week with the toppling of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

In March, gunmen killed 145 people at a concert hall outside

Moscow in an attack claimed by Daesh. U.S. officials said they had intelligence indicating it was the Afghan branch of the group, Daesh Khorasan (ISIS-K), that was responsible.

The Taliban say they are working to wipe out the presence of Daesh in Afghanistan.

World diplomats say the movement’s path towards wider international recognition is stalled until it changes course on women’s rights. The Taliban have closed high schools and universities to girls and women and placed re-

strictions on their movement without a male guardian. It says it respects women’s rights in line with its strict interpretation of law.

Russia has its own complex and bloodstained history in Afghanistan. Soviet troops invaded the country in December 1979 to prop up a Communist government, but became bogged down in a long war against fighters armed by the United States. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev pulled his army out in 1989, by which time some 15,000 Soviet soldiers had been killed.

Turkey to Reopen Damascus Embassy ‘When Conditions Right’

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey’s top diplomat Hakan Fidan said Tuesday Ankara would reopen its embassy in Damascus when conditions allow following the ouster of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

At a gathering of Turkish diplomats in Ankara, Fidan was asked whether Turkey was planning to reopen its embassy in the Syrian capital, which closed a year into the civil war that began in 2011.

“We will look into it. We’ll wait for the conditions to be right,” he told delegates.

The embassy closed on March 26, 2012 due to the deteriorating security situation and amid calls by the Turkish

government for Assad to step down.

Syrians who sought refuge in Turkey during the 13-year foreign-backed war in their home country continue returning to Syria following the fall of the government.

Lining up at the Oncupinar Customs Gate in Turkey’s southern Kilis province, Syrians are getting their procedures done at migration repatriation centers to return home.

The Turkish Red Crescent and Turkey’s Diyanet Foundation have set up catering tents for returning Syrians, while Kilis Governor Tahir Sahin inspected the work at the border crossing.

“The war is over and we’re returning to our country,” Abdulkерim Farriz, who

was a doctor in Syria and took refuge in Turkey nine years ago, told Anadolu.

Ibrahim Guzel, who came from Syria 13 years ago, said that he was satisfied in Turkey, adding that that he had very nice neighbors and friends here and that he wanted to host them for a visit to his country.

Menal Naime, 10 years old, also thanked the Turkish people for hosting them.

Ali Farriz, for his part, stated: “I love here very much. I’m sad to leave Turkey, but I’m very happy to return to my country.”

During the war, some 4 million Syrians took shelter in Turkey, more than any other country in the world.

Zionist... (Continued From Page One)

military assets to ensure whoever rules the country next would have to rebuild them.

“Dozens upon dozens of targets, including arms depots of various kinds, have been hit in waves of attacks so as to prevent them from falling into hostile hands and from posing a threat to Israel,” wrote Yossi Yehoshua, the military correspondent for Israel’s largest daily, Yediot Ahronot.

The air force “currently enjoys complete freedom of action,” he added.

Regional countries including Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia have condemned Israel’s aggression, saying the regime is exploiting the disarray in Syria and violating international law.

Turkey, which has been a main backer of the Syrian opposition to Assad, also condemned Israel’s advance. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said Israel is “displaying a mentality of an occupier”.

War minister Israel Katz said Israel has ordered its forces to create what he called a “sterile defense zone” in southern Syria.

He gave no details. As part of the wave of strikes, Katz said Israeli missile ships had destroyed the Syrian military fleet in an operation on Monday night.

Israel, which has just agreed to a ceasefire in Lebanon following weeks of aggression, calls the incursion a temporary measure. But it remained unclear how far beyond the designated buffer zone its troops had stopped.

Three security sources said on Tuesday the Israelis had advanced beyond the demilitarized zone. One Syrian source said they had reached the town of Qatana, several kilometers (miles) to the east of the zone and just a short drive from Damascus airport.

The Zionist regime welcomed the fall of Assad, a towering figure in the Axis of Resistance, and confirmed being in contact with HTS militants. HTS has roots in takfiri movements including Al-Qaeda and Daesh which have never attacked Israel and are believed to be cooperating with the Zionist regime.

As in southern Lebanon following the ceasefire with Hezbollah, Zionist leaders have said they will intervene in Syria whenever they see it fit.

Israeli... (Continued From Page One)

In another incident, Muhammad Khalifa, a young footballer from Gaza’s Al-Hilal club, was killed during Israeli strikes on Al-Nuseirat camp, according to local reports.

Meanwhile, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) released a report on Tuesday calling 2024 a “particularly bloody year” with 104 journalists killed worldwide, more than half of them in the Gaza Strip.

The federation had previously reported 129 journalists were killed in 2023.

IFJ secretary-general Anthony Bellanger described 2024 as “one of the worst years” for media professionals. He condemned the “massacre taking place in Palestine before the eyes of the entire world”.

The Qatari foreign ministry stated on Tuesday that discussions for a potential ceasefire in Gaza are ongoing but emphasized that it is premature to announce any progress.

Zionist forces have intensified their operations in northern Gaza. Footage captured from a distance showed dozens of men, stripped to their underwear, lined up near the Awani al-Harthani UN school, where they were reportedly sheltering before being detained by occupation forces as part of the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Beit Lahia.

Iran... (Continued From Page One)

The statement emphasized that the root cause of the situation stems from the U.S. withdrawal from the deal and the failure of the E3 to fulfill their own commitments.

“The E3, while claiming to uphold their commitments, has failed to take effective measures to mitigate the effects of these unlawful sanctions and ensure Iran’s ability to enjoy the benefits guaranteed under the agreement.”

The statement asserted that Iran’s cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been consistent and transparent, countering claims of non-compliance.

“To date, Iran remains subject to the most rigorous verification and monitoring measures ever implemented by the Agency,” it said, adding that Iran’s remedial measures were reversible and directly tied to the JCPOA’s principle of reciprocity.

“It is, therefore, disingenuous and hypocritical for the E3 to cite Iran’s ‘non-compliance’ while ignoring their own failures to uphold their obligations under the agreement,” Iravani wrote.

The statement reaffirmed Iran’s commitment to its rights under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and warned against threats of invoking “snapback” sanctions, which it views as counterproductive.

“Iran will never compromise its legitimate and inalienable rights under the Treaty. Consequently, any threats to invoke the so-called ‘snapback’ are counterproductive and will provoke a firm response from Iran.”

The letter urged the E3 to engage in genuine diplomacy and mutual respect to rebuild trust and resolve current tensions surrounding Iran’s nuclear program.

“Iran remains committed to engaging in good faith and exploring all avenues of diplomacy to address shared challenges,” it said.

“However, the E3 must recognize that meaningful diplomacy demands genuine reciprocity and respect for established commitments. We urge the E3 to abandon their ineffective and failed policy of pressure and confrontation. Instead, they should embrace diplomacy and focus on rebuilding the trust essential to resolving the current impasse.”