

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani said Saturday calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah are a clear plot, while maintaining deterrence power is a major element in defending countries' sovereignty and independence.

"While the U.S. provides the Zionist regime with the latest weapons and missiles, it prevents countries from strengthening and arming their militaries and, under various pretexts, pressures them to reduce or destroy their arsenals," Amani wrote on X.

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Israeli minister of strategic Affairs Ron Dermer and Mossad chief David Barnea traveled to Paris for a meeting with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff to influence Washington's nuclear talks with Iran, a report said.

Dermer "secretly flew to Paris to meet with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff for talks on the Iranian nuclear issue," three Israeli sources told Hebrew outlet Walla. "Israel wants to clarify its positions and try to influence the American position in the talks," the Walla report added.

Viewpoint

Positive Developments at Home and Abroad

Yemen Downs Two Advanced U.S. Drones in 24 Hours

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Yemen's military said Saturday it shot down another U.S.-made MQ-9 drone over Sanaa province.

"The drone was shot down, using a locally manufactured surface-to-air missile," military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a statement aired by Al-Masirah TV.

"This is the second drone our air defenses had successfully shot down in 24 hours ... and the 21st we had downed since November 2023," he said.

According to Al-Masirah TV, a video footage of the drone would be broadcast later in the day.

Sarea affirmed Yemen's support for the Palestinians, saying its operations will continue "until the Israeli aggression on Gaza stops and the siege on it is lifted."

On Friday, Sarea said Yemeni forces shot down a U.S. MQ-9 drone, the 20th it had downed since November 2023.

The U.S. side has not commented on the claims yet.

The United States resumed airstrikes on Yemen on March 15, after the country's armed forces announced plans to resume attacks on Israeli targets, citing the Zionist regime's blockade of humanitarian aid to Gaza as the reason.

Earlier on Saturday, the U.S. army launched 29 fresh airstrikes on northern Yemen, while Muhammad Ali al-Houthi, head of the Ansarullah Revolutionary Committee, vowed to retaliate.

On Thursday, Ansarullah leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said U.S. forces have carried out 900 airstrikes against Yemen since resuming Washington's illegal war in mid-March, while the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF) have launched 78 missile and drone attacks against Israel and a U.S. aircraft carrier in the Red Sea during the same period.

"The military operations

carried out by his forces against U.S. forces in the Red Sea and around the aircraft carrier Truman have achieved qualitative results and have disrupted U.S. movements in the region," Houthi said.

He added that the U.S. has been forced to rely more heavily on a military base in the Indian Ocean, 4,000 kilometers from the combat zone.

Houthi said 33 of the operations specifically targeted the Truman and its escort ships, using 122 ballistic and cruise missiles and drones.

The Ansarallah leader affirmed that attacks on Israeli sites, including Jaffa and Ashkelon, would continue. He described the YAF's campaign as a legitimate response to Israeli actions in Gaza and U.S. complicity in the "starvation of the Palestinian people."

Pentagon officials acknowledge that while some of the Yemeni leadership and military sites have been targeted, Yemen retains significant weapons stockpiles and fortified bunkers.

The U.S. military is becoming "increasingly concerned" that it will soon need to relocate long-range precision munitions from the Asia-Pacific region, due to the large amounts of weaponry Washington is burning through in its war on Yemen, according to the New York Times (NYT).

Sources who spoke to CNN say it has cost nearly \$1 billion in under three weeks.

The onslaught has relied on expensive precision munitions like Tomahawk missiles, JASSMs, JSOWs, B-2 bombers from the Diego Garcia base, and additional aircraft carriers and fighter jets. Despite this, the YAF continues to launch ballistic and cruise missiles and drones, while continuing to down U.S. MQ-9 advanced drones -- each carrying a price tag of \$30 million.

Irish Translation of Ibn Sina's Canon Discovered



Iranian Boxers Win Medals in Yerevan Mayor's Cup



Hezbollah Leader Dismisses Disarmament Demands as 'Gift' to Zionist Regime



FM Araghchi: Better Understanding Reached

Talks Move to Technical Phase at Expert Level



Iranian delegates leave the Omani Embassy in Rome after closed-door indirect meeting with a U.S. delegation on April 29, 2025.

ROME (Dispatches) -- Talks between Iran and the U.S. will move to the "expert level" next week, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, following the second round of indirect negotiations with President Donald Trump's chief negotiator Steve Witkoff here on Saturday.

Araghchi indicated that talks are continuing, saying

that negotiations will move to the next phase with technical talks held at the "expert level" on Wednesday. Araghchi added that he and Witkoff would conduct a third round of indirect negotiations next Saturday after the start of this week's technical discussions.

According to Araghchi, the two officials spoke indirectly

— with representatives from Oman serving as a go-between — for roughly four hours on Saturday, almost double the length of last week's session. At the end of last week's session, Witkoff and Araghchi briefly spoke directly, both sides said.

Speaking to Iranian national television, Araghchi said that

"negotiations are moving forward," and added that the two officials were able to reach a "better understanding about a series of principles and goals."

"Iran will continue as far as talks go on in a constructive and purposeful way," he added.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said the indirect talks were held at the residence of the Omani ambassador in Rome and in two separate halls.

He added that Iran participated in the sanctions-removal talks "with complete seriousness and readiness" and will continue its cooperation as long as the talks proceed in a constructive way.

"Iran's nuclear program is completely peaceful, and Iran is ready to dispel any doubts in this regard," Baghaei asserted.

Iran's "fixed and principled" stance during the talks with the U.S., he said, is the removal of the "unlawful" sanctions in a reliable manner with all the necessary guarantees.

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Over 90 Gazans Martyred in Intensified Israeli Genocide

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) — Israeli strikes in Gaza have martyred more than 90 people in 48 hours, Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday, as Zionist troops increase their attacks on the besieged territory.

Children and women were among the 15 people killed overnight, and some had been sheltering in a designated humanitarian zone, according to hospital staff.

At least 11 people were killed in the southern city of Khan Younis, several of them in a tent in the Muwasi area where hundreds of thousands of displaced people are staying, hospital workers said. Israel has designated it as a humanitarian zone.

Mourners cradled and kissed the faces of the dead. A man stroked a child's forehead with his finger before body bags were closed.

"Omar is gone ... I wish it was me," one brother cried out.

Four other people were killed in strikes in Rafah city, including a mother and her daughter, according to the European Hospital, where the bodies were taken.

The Zionist regime has vowed to intensify attacks across Gaza and occupy indefinitely large "security zones" inside the small coastal strip of over 2 million people.

Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to issue a statement Saturday night, according to his office. There were no immediate details.

Israel also has blockaded Gaza for the past six weeks, again barring the entry of food and other goods.

This week, aid groups raised the alarm, saying thou-

sands of children have become malnourished and most people are barely eating one meal a day as stocks dwindle, according to the United Nations.

On Friday, the head of the World Health Organization's eastern Mediterranean office, Dr. Hanan Balkhy, urged the new U.S. ambassador in Israel, Mike Huckabee, to push the occupying entity to lift Gaza's blockade so medicines and other aid can enter.

"I would wish for him to go in and see the situation firsthand," she said.

In his first appearance as ambassador on Friday, Huckabee visited the Western Wall, the holiest Jewish prayer site in the Old City of Al-Quds. He inserted a "prayer" into the wall, which he said was handwritten by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Israeli war on Gaza

began in October 2023, killing over 51,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The war has destroyed vast parts of Gaza and most of its food production capabilities. Around 90% of the population is displaced, with hundreds of thousands of people living in tent camps and bombed-out buildings.

Frustration has been growing on both sides after Israel shattered a ceasefire last month, with continued weekly rallies in Israel pressing the Zionist regime to reach a deal to bring all captives held in Gaza to Israeli settlements.

A growing campaign of retired and reservist Israeli soldiers has called for an end to the war.

Netanyahu had previously threatened to dismiss soldiers

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