

Israeli Forces Raid Syrian Villages, Attack Women and Children

QUNEITRA, Syria (Dispatches) -- Israeli military on Wednesday targeted civilians, including women and children, with smoke bombs in the northern Quneitra countryside of Syria, local media reported.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said a group of women and children were attacked by an Israeli military unit while they were collecting wild mushrooms in the area between the villages of Al-Adhaniyah and Ruwayhinah. A separate Israeli patrol also raided the Jamla village in the Daraa countryside, positioning itself around residential neighborhoods and causing panic among civilians. Israeli forces also stormed and searched houses in the area and detained two young Syrians, according to SANA.

Hamas Rejects Disarmament, Calls for Stronger Ceasefire Guarantees

TEHRAN -- Hamas has firmly rejected any attempts to disarm the resistance movement, warning against foreign interference in Palestinian affairs, while calling for stronger and more detailed guarantees for the second phase of the ceasefire with Israel, a top Hamas official said.

In an interview with Yemen's Al-Masirah, Osama Hamdan emphasized that Hamas will never hand over its weapons to foreign powers.

"The resistance rejects the arrival of foreign forces to disarm us [and take away] the weapons that the occupation failed to take from us ... The idea of surrendering weapons is an idea that the resistance does not accept," he said.

Hamdan also highlighted the ongoing ceasefire with Israel, which he said has been repeatedly violated, stressing the need for clearer guarantees in its next stage.

"In the second phase of the Gaza agreement, the guarantees must be clearer and the commitments need to be more detailed," he noted.

He added that Israel's continued blockade of Gaza, including keep-



Palestinian Hamas fighters and people gather in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip for a prisoner swap on February 22, 2025.

ing crossings closed, could signal a return to hostilities.

"The failure to open the crossings is an indication that the enemy intends to return to aggression against the Gaza Strip," he said, warning that the siege, used as a tool of war, only strengthens Palestinian resolve.

Hamdan framed Israeli and U.S. policies in the region as part of a broader plan to dominate West

Asia militarily.

"The Americans want to impose hegemony on the region, with the Zionist entity being the foundation of this hegemony," he said. He added that disarming Palestinian resistance would allow Israel to assert total control over the region.

Despite ongoing attacks, Hamdan expressed confidence in Palestinian resilience, asserting, "The resistance is capable of continu-

ing, and I am confident that the outcome of this conflict will be the demise of this entity."

A U.S.-brokered ceasefire between Hamas and Israel took effect on October 10, 2025. Under its first phase, Israel was required to open all crossings into Gaza to allow food and aid deliveries and cease hostilities in exchange for the release of captives held by Hamas.

While Hamas has largely complied, Israel has continued attacks and maintained closures on most crossings.

Israel Katz, the Zionist regime's war minister, recently stated that Israel has no plans to fully withdraw from Gaza and intends to establish new military and agricultural outposts in the north, violating the ceasefire.

According to Gaza authorities, Israel has breached the agreement at least 875 times, including shootings, incursions, shelling, and home demolitions. Since October 2023, Israeli attacks in Gaza have killed over 70,000 people and injured more than 171,000.

Israeli-UAE Plots in Yemen Face Resistance From Northern Strongholds

SANA'A (Dispatches) -- Israeli and UAE-backed forces have intensified their interference in southern and eastern Yemen, seeking to undermine the sovereignty of the Yemeni state.

Reports indicate that these external actors have relied heavily on proxy militias to advance their agendas, acknowledging that air and naval strikes alone cannot suppress Ansarullah and the allied forces of the Yemeni army.

Analysts in Lebanon and elsewhere note that this reliance on mercenaries reflects the limitations and illegitimacy of foreign interventions in Yemen.

Israel's focus remains on controlling strategic points such as the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a critical link between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The Zionist regime fears that An-

sarullah could use periods of relative calm to strengthen its defensive capabilities, expand missile and drone systems, and consolidate alliances with Iran and Hezbollah, establishing a permanent front capable of defending Yemen against external aggression.

Israeli assessments describe the northern regions of Sana'a and Sa'ada, under Ansarullah's control, as obstacles to foreign attempts to dominate the country.

Rather than pursuing direct military engagement—which would be costly and risky—Israeli strategy reportedly relies on the UAE to organize and lead proxy forces in southern Yemen.

This approach is designed to create a foothold for advancing northward, targeting Yemeni territories and attempting to weaken Ansarullah's authority.

UAE-backed militias have been positioned along southern and western coastlines, while northern areas remain firmly under the control of Ansarullah and the national army.

Observers stress that these foreign interventions threaten Yemen's unity, sovereignty, and maritime security.

Hebrew-language media reportedly celebrate the UAE-backed takeover of eastern Yemeni provinces, framing it as a potential step toward establishing a semi-autonomous southern entity under Abu Dhabi's influence.

This strategy is part of a broader effort to extend Israeli influence in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and exert pressure on neighboring states, including Saudi Arabia, by limiting their strategic depth.

Yemen's resistance, led by Ansa-

rullah and supported by loyal forces within the Yemeni army, continues to repel these incursions. Their resilience underscores the inability of external powers to impose control over Yemen, despite advanced weaponry, foreign funding, and regional alliances.

The steadfast defense of Yemeni territory highlights the legitimacy of the national resistance and the broader struggle to protect Yemen's independence, sovereignty, and strategic assets from foreign exploitation and aggression.

Analysts warn that the Israeli-UAE strategy, reliant on proxies and external pressure, cannot overcome the determination and operational capabilities of Ansarullah and allied Yemeni forces, who remain the central pillar of Yemen's defense and sovereignty.

Plane Crash Near Ankara Raises Concerns Over Spate of Incidents

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Libya's army chief of staff, Muhammad Ali Ahmed al-Haddad, and seven others died on Tuesday when a private jet carrying them crashed near Haymana, Turkey, after requesting an emergency landing due to an electrical fault.

The Dassault Falcon 50 had taken off from Ankara Esenboga Airport and contacted aviation authorities about the malfunction shortly before the crash.

Haddad was in Turkey on an official visit and had earlier met with his Turkish counterpart, Selcuk Bayraktaroglu. His death shocked officials in both countries and came a day after the Turkish parliament voted to extend the mandate for Turkish military deployment in Libya by two years.

Turkey has long supported Libya's Tripoli-based, internationally recognized government with military personnel and political backing, including a disputed maritime demarcation accord with Libya that Egypt and Greece have challenged.

The crash has heightened concern in Turkey amid a series of recent incidents, including last month's crash of a Turkish military cargo plane in Georgia that killed 20 soldiers and crew members.

In November and December, three Russian cargo ships were attacked near Turkish territorial waters, and at least three Turkish commercial ships were targeted in the Black Sea. Russian-made drones have also landed in Turkey, including near Ankara, where sensitive defense companies are located.

Turkish nationalist leader Dev-

let Bahceli described the timing of the crash as "thought-provoking," noting it coincided with intensified Turkey-Libya dialogue and joint efforts to defend shared interests. While there is no public evidence of sabotage, some analysts have suggested foreign interference, including possible electronic warfare attacks by Russia or Israel.

The crash occurred shortly after a trilateral summit in Occupied Al-Quds between Israel, Cyprus, and Greece, which some Turkish officials see as a potential strategic move against Ankara.

Independent MP Burak Dalgin highlighted that both the summit and the parliamentary vote on Libya happened on Monday, with Haddad's crash the following day, raising speculation about timing.

Turkish media have reported that Maria Pappa, the flight attendant aboard the jet, is a Greek citizen and that the aircraft previously flew from Athens to Tripoli before transporting the Libyan delegation to Ankara.

Despite such reports, aviation experts emphasize technical malfunction as the likely cause. Ugur Cebeci, a Turkish aviation specialist, noted that the black boxes of the Dassault Falcon 50 will be key to determining the crash's cause.

He added that, in cases of sabotage involving explosions, pilots usually cannot send emergency reports, suggesting the accident points to technical failure rather than foul play. A detailed investigation, in collaboration with the aircraft's manufacturer, is ongoing to clarify the circumstances.

Israel Vows Permanent Occupation of Syria's Jabal al-Shaykh

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Israeli war minister Yisrael Katz on Wednesday reaffirmed Tel Aviv's daily military aggression and occupation in Syria and Gaza, emphasizing that the Zionist regime will maintain its hold over strategic areas while continuing attacks on civilian and military targets.

Katz said, "We are committed to disarming the Hamas movement and we pursue this goal," and added, "We will not withdraw from Mount Hermon [Jabal al-Shaykh region in Syria]."

During a previous visit to the highlands overlooking Damascus, Katz declared, "We will never leave Mount Hermon," signaling Israel's long-term expansionist intentions.

Since the collapse of the Assad government, Israeli forces have exploited Syria's power vacuum to push deeper into Syrian territory. The occupation of Jabal al-Shaykh, combined with ongoing occupation of the Golan Heights, underscores a deliberate colonial and militaristic agenda, carried out amid the inaction of Syria's de facto rulers.

The de facto authority in Damascus, led by Abu Muhammad al-Jolani of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a former Al-Qaeda and Daesh commander, has failed to defend Syria against repeated Israeli assaults.

Despite occasional overtures toward dialogue and normalization, al-Jolani's regime has allowed Tel Aviv to consolidate territorial gains and expand its operational reach. Syrian villages remain exposed to daily airstrikes and incursions, highlighting the regime's inability or unwillingness to protect its citizens and sovereignty.

Katz also repeated longstanding Israeli claims regarding Iran, stating, "Israel's security apparatus monitors developments closely".

Israeli forces have systematically targeted Syrian villages, strategic positions, and infrastructure, exploiting Syria's fragmented authority.

The combination of Israel's military assertiveness and the paralysis of local authorities has normalized aggression, with civilian populations bearing the brunt of the occupation.

As Katz and the Israeli military entrench their presence in Jabal al-Shaykh and beyond, these actions illustrate a clear policy of domination and aggression. Daily attacks continue unchecked, demonstrating that Israel's occupation is not a temporary military operation but a sustained campaign designed to expand influence, control territory, and maintain a permanent strategic advantage in the region.

Former Iraqi PM Abadi Signals Readiness to Return

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Former Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Wednesday he is ready to resume the premiership, highlighting the country's complex political and economic landscape.

Speaking after a meeting with a delegation from the Kurdistan Democratic Party, al-Abadi emphasized the need to follow constitutional timelines in forming a new government.

"I emphasize respect for the timelines of the constitution in the process of forming the government, and everyone must adhere to it," he said.

He added that a parliamentary session would be held next week to elect the speaker and deputies, after which constitutional procedures—including selecting a president and nominating a prime minister from the largest bloc—would continue.

Al-Abadi described the current political dis-

agreements as a natural part of Iraq's political process.

"At present there are natural disagreements; this is the essence of the political process. No single bloc holds all votes; rather, a combination of perhaps up to 10 blocs must reach consensus to achieve results beneficial to citizens," he said.

Regarding his own candidacy, al-Abadi confirmed that his name has been discussed in the media and within political circles.

"There are ongoing discussions among political parties on whether to return to previous leaders or select new figures," he said. He noted Iraq faces economic and regional challenges and added, "We are psychologically and practically ready and hope success is possible."

Iraq's parliamentary elections earlier this year left a fragmented political landscape. Ac-

cording to official results, the coalition led by Muhammad Shia al-Sudani secured the largest number of seats. The Coordination Framework, a major Shia bloc, has positioned itself as the largest parliamentary faction.

Political observers note that several key decisions, including the formation of government coalitions and the selection of senior leadership posts, will require negotiations among multiple blocs. Analysts have described the current environment as one of significant complexity, with no single group able to dominate the parliamentary process.

Al-Abadi highlighted the importance of national unity, recalling his previous term when Iraq faced major security and economic challenges. "That success resulted from the unity of all Iraqis, and today, if there is unity among political blocs, the country will succeed," he said.