

Settler Claims Syrian Land 'Belongs to Israel According to Holy Torah'

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- An Israeli settler has acknowledged that he and others are present in an area of southern Syria "day and night", claiming it "belongs to the people of Israel according to the Holy Torah".

The remarks were carried by the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation. The unnamed settler, who belongs to the Pioneers of Bashan movement, spoke from inside Syrian territory. The settler claimed that the Bashan region "belongs to the people of Israel according to the Holy Torah". In the Torah, "Bashan" refers to an area in southern Syria, although its exact boundaries are not clearly defined.

Wall Street Terrified of \$3 Trillion Crossfire as Saudi-UAE Crisis Deepens

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- The deepening rift between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the two largest economies in the Persian Gulf, has thrown global financial markets into a state of alarm, with major Wall Street institutions drawing up emergency contingency plans as fears mount that the rivalry could force them to choose sides.

The escalating tensions, which have seen Saudi Arabia reportedly block financial transfers to the UAE, delayed trucks at the border, and the UAE abruptly quit OPEC in April, have left investment banks and private equity firms scrambling to protect their exposure to more than \$3 trillion in sovereign wealth managed by the two Persian Gulf powers.

Executives at Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, BlackRock, Brookfield, and KKR are said to be "terrified of being caught in the crossfire".

According to Bloomberg, the situation has deteriorated to the point where some firms are preparing for a worst-case scenario reminiscent of the 2017 Qatar blockade, when Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt severed ties with Doha.

"Concerns are running high enough for some global investment banks and even officials within at least one regional government to run internal assessments to decide how they would respond if the economic rivalry wors-



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (right) talks to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (left) in the UAE capital during the Crown Prince's visit to Abu Dhabi.

ens," the report states.

The feud, which has its roots in diverging strategies over Yemen, Sudan, and Iran, boiled over after the UAE's withdrawal from OPEC—a move that blindsided Riyadh and threatened the entire Saudi-led oil organization.

The two former allies have also clashed over the war on Iran, with Saudi Arabia reportedly adopting a more conciliatory stance toward Tehran while the UAE pushed a harder line, further exposing the fracture.

Recent reports indicate the economic warfare has already begun. The Finan-

cial Times revealed that since May, Saudi banks have delayed or blocked transfers to UAE accounts belonging to businesses and individuals, often without providing any reason.

Truck drivers crossing from the UAE into Saudi Arabia have faced delays lasting up to a week, forcing many to sleep under their trailers while awaiting approval. In response, some companies have been forced to reroute payments through Bahrain to circumvent the blockade.

The financial sector is feeling the heat directly. One international asset man-

ager told Bloomberg that Saudi limited partners had explicitly stated they would only commit funds to vehicles focused exclusively on the Saudi market and would avoid any investments linked to the UAE. Law firms have become increasingly selective about the Persian Gulf mandates they accept to avoid antagonizing either side.

Both governments have officially denied imposing any restrictions. A UAE official insisted that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi "maintain deep and longstanding economic and commercial ties," while the Saudi central bank claimed its financial sector "operates within a robust regulatory framework" with no restrictions on specific countries. However, the denials have done little to calm Wall Street's nerves.

Analysts warn that the rivalry is not just a diplomatic spat but a fundamental shift in the region's power dynamics that could upend global investment flows. Saudi Arabia's ambition to make Riyadh the region's undisputed business hub is directly challenging Dubai's dominance, and with both nations spending billions on AI, finance, and infrastructure, the competition shows no signs of abating.

As one expert put it, the fragmentation among key U.S. allies at a time of war with Iran does not serve America's long-term strategic interests. For now, the world's largest financial institutions can only brace for impact.

U.S. Reverses Drawdown of Refueling Planes at Ben Gurion

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- The United States has reversed its drawdown of military refueling tankers from Ben Gurion Airport, turning Israel's main aviation terminal into a de facto U.S. military base.

The Israel airports authority announced on Tuesday that Washington has halted the removal of its tankers from the airport, with four already returned and the U.S. pressing to station more than the agreed 20 aircraft.

Israeli transportation minister Miri Regev has vowed to resist, insisting that additional tankers "will land at Air Force bases" and declaring, "we will not cancel a single ticket because of American refueling planes."

The military buildup comes as the U.S.-Israeli terrorist war on Iran reignites, with Washington resuming its inhuman bombing campaign against the country.

Since late February, the refueling jets have choked Ben Gurion, with roughly 75 U.S. military aircraft occupying 59 of the airport's 99 parking zones at their peak, cutting daily arrivals from 80,000–100,000 settlers to a ceiling of 70,000 and limiting operations to a third of capacity.

Airports authority chief Sharon Kedmi said losses have reached \$190 million and could climb to \$700 million if the aircraft remain through 2026.

The occupation of Israel's main

airport by U.S. military assets underscores the depths of Washington's complicity in the Zionist regime's expansionist ambitions and its relentless campaign to crush resistance against Israeli aggression.

The demonic project of a "Greater Israel" continues to rely on American military might to terrorize the region, with Ben Gurion serving as a strategic hub for fueling warplanes that rain destruction on Iran.

Iran has responded forcefully to U.S. aggression. On Tuesday, the Iranian Army struck two Emirati supertankers with cruise missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, killing an Indian crewmember, and hit U.S. military infrastructure across Bahrain, Jordan, and Kuwait.

Iranian drones targeted communications systems, fuel depots, Patriot air defense systems, a control tower, and ammunition storage facilities in retaliation for three consecutive nights of heavy U.S. strikes that hit Kish Island, Saravan, and Iran's coast—setting civilian boats ablaze.

Terrorist American President Donald Trump has formally notified Congress that the war has resumed and declared that the blockade on Iranian ports will be reimposed. He boasted to Fox News that Iran would be hit "very hard" and that "there's not a damn thing they can do about it."

British Troops Abused Afghan Prisoners 'For Fun', Inquiry Told

LONDON (Dispatches) -- A British public inquiry has heard new allegations of war crimes committed by UK special forces in Afghanistan, as the country remains in ruins from two decades of occupation and crippling Western sanctions that have pushed millions into destitution.

The Afghanistan Inquiry, examining alleged SAS atrocities between 2010 and 2013 and subsequent cover-ups, heard explosive testimony this week from whistleblowers Monica Grenfell and Christopher Green.

Grenfell, a former civilian staff member, told the inquiry that a British soldier boasted of abusing detainees by placing them on a forklift, raising it high, and driving at speed so prisoners would fall off. She described an environment where soldiers operated without oversight.

Christopher Green, a former Army Reserve member who served in 2012, raised concerns after three brothers from the village of Rahim were killed during a special forces raid described as having "gone wrong." Intelligence officers believed the men were farmers, not Taliban commanders. When Green questioned the operation, he was branded a "Taliban-loving apologist."

Green also testified that the brothers' mother, Bebe Hazrata, received £3,634 from the UK government as an "assistance payment"—which he called an "admission of guilt" that the wrong people had been killed.

The inquiry comes years after the incidents occurred, and for

Afghanistan's victims, justice remains a distant promise. The country today lies shattered—not only from the legacy of foreign occupation but from the stranglehold of Western sanctions imposed since 2021.

These measures have paralyzed the economy, halted humanitarian aid, and pushed millions into hunger, punishing ordinary Afghans while doing little to pressure those in power.

The humanitarian catastrophe has sent waves of refugees across borders. Neighboring Iran has shouldered the overwhelming burden for decades, hosting millions of Afghan nationals—one of the world's largest refugee populations—with minimal international support. The strain has compounded Iran's own economic struggles, yet Western nations, whose policies helped create the crisis, have accepted comparatively few asylum seekers.

The UK Ministry of Defense said it remains "fully committed" to supporting the inquiry and will respond after its conclusion.

But for the three farming brothers killed in Rahim—and for millions of Afghans now living under sanctions and poverty—the inquiry offers cold comfort. Two decades of occupation left Afghanistan in ruins, and the subsequent punishment of its people through economic restrictions has only deepened the tragedy. Meanwhile, neighboring countries, particularly Iran, continue to bear the cost of a crisis they did not create.

Omani FM: Gravest Threats to Persian Gulf Security Come From Israel

MUSCAT (Dispatches) -- Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi has publicly declared that the gravest threat to Persian Gulf security comes not from Iran but from Israel, while dismissing decades of U.S.-led "containment" policy as a dangerous myth.

The statement, published in Le Monde, comes as Washington ramps up its bullying of Persian Gulf nations, threatening even to "blow up" Oman for engaging in dialogue with Tehran.

"Tehran did not constitute an existential threat," al-Busaidi wrote, directly contradicting the narrative peddled by corrupt regimes in Bahrain, the UAE, and Jordan, which have normalized relations with the genocidal Israeli regime while portraying Iran as a regional

menace.

The Omani minister emphasized that the latest war has proven that the U.S.-Israeli-Arab "policy of containment was little more than a myth".

Al-Busaidi's courageous stance comes despite immense U.S. pressure. Washington has threatened Oman for its independent foreign policy, with President Trump declaring the Strait of Hormuz "international waters" and vowing that "Oman will behave like everybody else, or we'll have to blow them up".

The bullying of a sovereign nation that has "always played a constructive, effective and responsible role in regional peace and security" was condemned by Iran as a violation of the fundamental UN Charter principle prohibiting the threat of force.

The Omani minister stressed that any future regional security architecture must include Iran, stating that none of the eight states sharing the Persian Gulf coastline—including Iran and Iraq—can be excluded.

This stands in stark contrast to the puppet regimes in Bahrain and the UAE, which host U.S. military bases and have sold their sovereignty to Washington.

Al-Busaidi also reaffirmed that reaching an arrangement for secure navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is a "priority," emphasizing Iran's indispensable role.

His comments align with Iran's position that arrangements must be made through consultations between the two coastal countries, Iran and Oman. Tehran has established the Persian Gulf

Strait Authority (PGSA) to manage the waterway, with more than 200 non-Iranian vessels coordinating with Iran following the Islamabad MoU.

The U.S., meanwhile, has backtracked on the MoU and launched devastating strikes against Iran, violating the ceasefire and pushing vessels toward a "dangerous southern parallel route" near Omani waters that Tehran has declared "unsafe, unreliable, and prone to accidents". The Iranian Foreign Ministry has condemned the activation of a U.S.-Omani shipping corridor as a violation of the agreement.

Iran has responded with missile and drone operations targeting U.S. assets across the Persian Gulf, while the IRGC has closed the strait until "U.S. interference" ends.

Al Khalifa Regime Hands Down Life Sentences in Latest Crackdown on Bahrainis

MANAMA (Dispatches) -- Bahrain's judicial authorities have sentenced three individuals to life imprisonment on charges of espionage for Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), the latest move in a brutal crackdown by the Al-Khalifa monarchy against the kingdom's Shia majority since the outbreak of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

The prosecution said the three defendants were charged with "colluding" with the IRGC to "assist in hostile and terrorist acts against the Kingdom of Bahrain and to harm its interests." All three received life sentences.

The crackdown has intensified dramatically since 28 February, when the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran began. Hundreds have been arrested, public gatherings banned, and dissidents jailed, with the measures predominantly targeting Bahrain's Shia population, which forms the majority of the country but is ruled by the minority rejectionist Al-Khalifa family.

In early May, Bahrain's Interior Ministry an-

nounced the arrest of 41 citizens, including approximately 30 Shia clerics, accusing them of espionage and ties to the IRGC. The Bahraini House of Representatives also stripped three lawmakers of their seats after they publicly criticized the monarchy's crackdown and its support for the war on Iran.

In late April, the kingdom revoked the citizenship of 69 individuals and their families—including spouses, children, and grandchildren—for allegedly "glorifying or sympathizing with the hostile Iranian acts." The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) condemned the move as "the beginning of a dangerous era of repression," imposed without legal safeguards or right of appeal.

The violence reached a grim peak in March when authorities tortured to death 32-year-old Shia activist Mohamed al-Mousawi after accusing him of spying for Iran. Video footage of his body showed signs of beatings, cable whip-

pings, and electrocution burns. Prosecutors have charged one unnamed security official with "assault resulting in death," but rights groups have dismissed the move as a token gesture.

The Al-Khalifa monarchy hosts the largest U.S. naval base in the region, home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet, which has been crucial to Washington's military posture and its terrorist war on Iran. Despite suffering massive damage from Iranian retaliatory strikes, the base continues to anchor American military power in the Persian Gulf.

Rights groups have documented a pattern of systematic abuse, with espionage charges used as a flimsy pretext to crush dissent, strip citizenship from Shia families, and eliminate any expression of support or sympathy for Iran.

The campaign has drawn condemnation from international human rights organizations, but Western governments have remained largely silent, given Bahrain's strategic importance as host to the U.S. Fifth Fleet.