

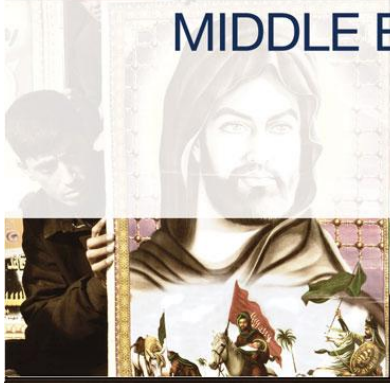
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CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

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1. IRAQ / IRAK

• Irak, Kürtlerin petrol anlaşmasını feshediyor

Irak'ta üst düzeyli bir yetkili, kuzeydeki Kürt bölgesel yönetimiyle anlaşmalar yapan Amerikan şirketi Exxon Mobil'in sözleşmesini feshetmek için gereken işlemleri yapacaklarını söyledi.



Uluslararası haber ajansı Reuters'a konuşan, Petrol Bakanlığı'nın Sözleşmeler ve Ruhsatlama Dairesi Başkanı Abdülmehdi el Ameedi, "Exxon, Kürdistan'da faaliyet gösterecek şirketleri ilgilendiren bakanlık talimatlarını ihlal etti" dedi.

Ameedi, "Bu hem sözleşmenin hem de yasanın ihlalidir. Sonuç olarak petrol bakanlığı (Exxon ile yapılmış olan) sözleşmeyi bitirmek için gerekenleri yapacak. Ancak bu işlemin hazırlıklarının yapılması gerek" şeklinde konuştu.

Exxon, Irak petrol bakanlığı ile güneydeki Batı Kurna birinci faz petrol sahasını geliştirmek için milyarlarca dolarlık anlaşma yapmıştı.

Irak'taki merkezi hükümet ile Irak Bölgesel Kürt yönetimi, petrol ve toprak konusundaki haklar üzerinde uzun zamandır uzlaşmıyorlar. Merkezi hükümet, geçmişte Kürt bölgesiyle imzalanan bütün petrol anlaşmalarını yasadışı sayacağını duyurmuştu.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297795/>

• IRAK'TA TÜRKMENLERİN YOĞUNLUKTA OLDUĞU SELAHATTIN İLİ ÖZERKLİK TALEBİNDE ISRARLI

Selahattin İl Meclisi Türkmen Grubu Başkanı Ali Haşim Muhtaroglu:

"Kuzey Irak'a verilen hakların hiçbiri buraya verilmiyor. Bizler mağdur ediliyoruz. Biz de il meclisi olarak 'Özerklik Talebi' kararını almayı uygun gördük. Bu kararımız meclis, halk, vilayetteki aşiretler ve kanaat önderleri tarafından da destekleniyor"

"Irak Türkleri Osmanlı'dan bu yana sürekli hedef haline gelmişlerdir"

Irak'ta nüfusu 1 milyon 200 bini aşan Selahattin İli meclisinin aldığı 'Özerklik' kararı Türkmenler ve ilde yaşayan diğer etnik gruplar tarafından da olumlu karşılandı.

İle bağlı 8 ilçeden, Türkmenlerin yoğunlukta olduğu Tuzhurmatu'da da karara destek tam. 80 binden fazla Türkmen'in yaşadığı 170 bin nüfuslu ilçede Kürt ve Arap'lar da kararın kendileri için iyi sonuçlanacağını belirtti.

İl meclisinde 28 üyeden 24'ünün desteği ile alınan karar da 2'si Türkmen 1'i Kürt olan 3 Tuzhurmatu meclis üyesinin de desteği var.

Türkmenleri il meclisinde temsil eden Irak Türkmen Cephesi Başkan Yardımcısı ve Selahattin İl Meclisi Türkmen Grubu Başkanı Ali Haşim Muhtaroglu, il meclisinin aldığı özerklik talebi kararının yasal olduğunu, Irak anayasasınının 119. maddesinde il meclisi üyelerinin 3'te 1'inin bu isteği imzalamasıyla böyle bir istekte bulunması hakkının verildiğini belirterek, "Biz il meclisi olarak 28 üyenin 24'ünün onayı ile bu kararı aldık. Bu karara Başbakan Maliki karşı çıkıyor ancak meclisimizi ziyaret eden Irak Parlamento

Başkanı Usame El-nuceyfi bu isteğin yasal olduğunu ve bunu desteklediklerini belirtti. Hükümet tüm illere karşı aynı mesafede değil. Kuzey Irak'a verilen hakların hiçbiri buraya verilmiyor. Bizler mağdur ediliyoruz. Biz de meclis olarak böyle bir karar almayı uygun gördük. Bu kararımız meclis, halk, vilayetteki aşiretler ve kanaat önderleri tarafından da destekleniyor" dedi.

Karardan geri adım atmayacaklarını belirten Muhtaroglu bunu halk oylamasına da götürebileceklerini belirtti. Başbakan Nuri El-maliki'nin Selahattin ilinin bu talebinin arkasında Baas Partisi'nin bu bölgede rahat hareket sağlama talebinin yattığı yönündeki iddiasına karşın Muhtaroglu, "Bu açıklama Başbakana yakışmıyor. Ayrıca özerklik isteğine Baas Partisi de karşı çıkıyor. Maliki'nin bu yaklaşımı tek adam, dikta rejim tutkusudur, hiç kimsenin halk iradesi olmadan tek başına karar alması söz konusu değildir" dedi.

TÜRKMENLER DESTEKLİYOR

Selahattin'de Türkmenlerin bu kararı desteklediğini söyleyen Muhtaroglu, "Türkmenler vilayet içinde mağdur olanların başında geliyor. Göz ardı

siyasetinin yanı sıra tartışmalı bölge çıkmazına merkezin hiç bir çözüm geliştiremediği için ayrıca iş fırsatları olsun hizmet olsun Türkmen bölgeleri hep arka planda bu yüzden biz de sonuna kadar bu isteği destekliyoruz” dedi.

IRAK TÜRKMENLERİ MAĞDUR

Irak'ta yaşayan Türklerin Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'ndan sonra kendi kaderine bırakıldığını söyleyen Muhtaroğlu, “Burada Türkler sürekli katliamlara maruz kalıyor, bazen bu merkezi hükümetler tarafından uygulanıyor bazen de merkez hükümetin gözü önünde yapılıyor. Bu şekilde çok sayıda vatandaşımız hayatını kaybetti. Özerk bölgenin oluşması ile bölgedeki Türkmenlerin kaderi değişecek çünkü burada ağırlığımız var ve her şeyi yapabiliriz” diye konuştu.

VATANDAŞLAR ÖZERKLİK İSTİYOR

ITC Selahattin kolu Enformasyon Sorumlusu Türkes Tuzlu da “İl meclisinin aldığı kararı destekliyoruz çünkü bu istek Irak halkının meşru bir hakkıdır” dedi.

Tuzhurmatu'da yaşayan vatandaşlar da 2003'ten bu yana Tuzhurmatu'da kendilerine yapılan saldırıların yoğunluğuna dikkat çekerek, bunun ancak

özerklik haklarının kazanılması ile son bulacağını söyledi.

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6691>

• ÖZERKLİK TARTIŞMASI SÜRÜYOR

Özerklik tartışması hükümet ve Parlamento'nun birinci derecede gündem maddesini oluşturmaya devam ediyor. bazı illerin özerklik taleplerine ilişkin Parlamento kanuni komisyonundan bir açıklama geldi. Kanuni Komisyon Etnik veya Mezhebe dayalı olmadığı sürece, bir veya birden fazla ilin birleşmesi ile özerklik talep etmesine, yasal olarak her hangi bir engel olmadığını belirtti.

Başta Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nuceyfi olmak üzere bir çok Milletvekili de özerkliğe destek veriyor.

Özerklik tartışması hükümet ve Parlamento'nun birinci derecede gündem maddesini oluşturmaya devam ediyor. bazı illerin özerklik taleplerine ilişkin Parlamento kanuni komisyonundan bir açıklama geldi. Kanuni Komisyon Etnik veya Mezhebe dayalı olmadığı sürece, bir veya birden fazla ilin birleşmesi ile özerklik talep etmesine, yasal olarak her hangi bir engel olmadığını belirtti.

Komisyon üyesi Emir El Kinani, özerklik kurulmasının Etnik ve Mezhebe dayalı olmadığı sürece buna karşı herhangi bir yasa olmadığını söyledi ve özerklik taleplerine destek verdi.

El Kinani, Anayasada, Özerklikle ilgili tam bir şekilde anlaşılır bir madde bulunmadığını da sözlerine ekledi.

El Kinani, özerklik talebinin amacı Etnik ve Mezheb'e dayalı değil, daha iyi hizmet verilmesine dayalı olmalıdır dedi.

El Kinani, Salahattin, Musul gibi bazı illerin geniş arazi ve büyük yüzölçümüne sahip olduğunu, bu nedenle ilçe ve köylere daha iyi hizmet vermediğini açıkladı.

Salahattin ilinde Samarra ve Düceyil İlçelerinin, Musul ilinde ise Telafer gibi ilçenin il olabilme şartları bulunduğunu söyledi.

ALİ KASAP / TÜRKMENELİTV HABER MÜD.

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6653>

• EL NÜCEYFİ TÜRKİYE'DE

Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nuceyfi Türkiye'de temaslarda

bulunuyor. Ankara'da Türkiye Başbakanı Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ile görüşen El Nuceyfi iki ülke ilişkilerini gündem aldı.



Türkiye Başbakanı Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Türkiye'yi ziyaret eden Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nuceyfi'yi kabul ederek görüştü.

Türkiye Başbakanlık Merkez Bina'da gerçekleşen Erdoğan-Nuceyfi görüşmesi, yaklaşık 1 saat sürdü.

Türkiye Başbakanı Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nuceyfi'yi Başbakanlık merdivenlerinde karşılarken, görüşme sonunda da yine dışarıya çıkarak aracına kadar uğurladı.

Görüşmede, Irak'ın su probleminin yanı sıra terörle mücadelede ortak hareket etme konularının masaya yatırıldığı belirtildi.

Görüşmenin sona ermesinin ardından, Nuceyfi'yi, Başbakan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan uğurladı. El Nuceyfi'nin yanında diğer yetkililerle iki ülke ilişkileri ile

bölgedeki son gelişmeler hususunda temaslarda bulunması bekleniyor.

Bu arada yarın Türkiye'yi ziyaret edecek olan Irak Türkmen Cephesi başkanı ve Kerkük Milletvekili Erşet Salihi, Türkiye Cumhurbaşkanı Abdullah Gül tarafından kabul edilecek

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6657>

- **CUMHURBAŞKANI GÜL, IRAK TÜRKMEN CEPHESİ BAŞKANI ERŞAT SALİHİ'Yİ KABUL ETTİ**

Cumhurbaşkanı Abdullah Gül, Irak Türkmen Cephesi Başkanı Erşat Salihi ve beraberindeki heyeti Çankaya Köşk'ünde kabul etti. Görüşmede, Türkiye'nin Irak'a desteği konusu öne çıktı. Gül , "Irak'ın birliği, bütünlüğü ve güçlü olması için Türkiye olarak elimizden gelen her şeyi yapıyoruz" dedi.



Cumhurbaşkanı Abdullah Gül, Irak Türkmen Cephesi Başkanı Erşat Salihi ve

beraberindeki heyeti Çankaya Köşk'ündeki makamında kabul etti.

Erşat Salihi Başkanlığındaki heyet, Irak'taki son gelişmelerle ilgili Cumhurbaşkanı Gül ile görüş alışverişinde bulundu.

Kabul sırasında Cumhurbaşkanı Gül, Irak ve Türkiye arasında Türkmenlerin büyük bir köprü rolü üstlendiğini belirterek, " Irak'ın birliği, bütünlüğü ve güçlü olması için Türkiye olarak elimizden gelen her şeyi yapıyoruz. Yapmaya da devam ediyoruz." dedi.

Irak Türkmen Cephesi Başkanı Erşat Salihi ise, Türkiye'nin Iraklıların yanında olmasının, eşit mesafede durmasının Iraklılar için büyük bir gurur kaynağı olduğunu ve diğer komşu ülkelerden de bu gibi adımları beklediklerini söyledi. Amerika'nın Irak'tan çekilmesinin ardından oluşacak tablonun önemli olduğunu belirten Salihi, Kürt yönetimi ile görüşmeye açık olduklarını ifade etti.

Cumhurbaşkanı Gül daha sonra, Irak Türkmen Cephesi Başkanı Salihi'nin büyük bir mücahit olduğunu belirterek, Türkmen dayanışmasından dolayı Ebu Garip Cezaevi'nde dokuz yıl kaldığını, bir

kardeşini şehit verdiğini, tüm ailesinin Irak'ın güneyine sürüldüğünü ve o dönemlerde çok büyük cefalar çekmiş biri olduğunu söyledi.

Cumhurbaşkanı Gül, Irak Türkmen Cephesi Başkanı Salihî'den Irak'a döndüğünde tüm Türkmenlere ve herkese muhabbetlerini ve sevgilerini iletmesini istedi.

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6683>

- **Standoff at U.S. Airbase in Iraq (The Wall Street Journal, Sam Dagher, November 18)**

BAGHDAD-A tense standoff between local police and the Iraqi Army played out on Thursday at the gate of the U.S. airbase in the northern city of Kirkuk, where a dispute over land and oil threatens national stability and unity as U.S. forces withdraw.

The territorial conflict, between the central government in Baghdad and the semiautonomous Kurdistan region, is just one flashpoint that some American and Iraqi officials say could boil over after the full pullout of U.S. troops at the end of December.

Fears of a clash between Iraqi troops and Kurdish forces were heightened on Thursday, when the Kurdish-dominated police in Kirkuk blocked senior Iraqi Army commanders from entering the airbase, where they said they were planning to take over the facility from the U.S. military.

The army officials brought reporters from Iraqi state-owned television to document the handover, in what appeared to be an effort to show the nation that Baghdad was in charge. The central government, headed by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, is increasingly eager to project its power ahead of the U.S. pullout.

The installation, known as Forward Operating Base Warrior, is among nine bases still under U.S. control that are scheduled for transfer to Iraq by the end of December.

The Kurds in the north are sensitive about even allowing the army within the city limits, let alone giving them claim to a military base in the city-one of nearly a dozen disputed patches of oil-rich territory along a 300-mile arc just beyond Iraq's Kurdistan region.

"We did not want a situation where we ended up shooting at each other," said Kirkuk Gov. Najmaldin Karim.

Mr. Karim met with Mr. Maliki and U.S. Ambassador James Jeffrey in Baghdad in an effort to calm the drama that was unfolding 180 miles to the north.

Mr. Karim, an American neurosurgeon of Kurdish origin, said the standoff was resolved when Mr. Maliki committed to converting the military airbase into a civilian airport in the future, reflecting the wishes of the majority of the members of the provincial council.

The U.S. Embassy and Mr. Maliki's office didn't respond to requests for comment.

After the verbal agreement in Baghdad, the police in Kirkuk allowed a dozen Iraqi army vehicles to enter the base, according to Mr. Karim.

But what happened next highlighted the level of mistrust that remains despite U.S. efforts over the years to tamp down tensions and nudge the two sides to resolve their differences.

Hussein al-Assadi, a special adviser to Mr. Maliki responsible for the formalities of receiving all bases from the U.S. military, proceeded to hold a handover ceremony in a section of the Kirkuk airbase-though no U.S. commanders were present, and all U.S.-Iraqi base handovers have been kept under wraps in recent months for security reasons.

Mr. Assadi said he was transferring security responsibility of the base to the commander of Iraqi ground troops, Lt. Gen. Ali Ghaidan, in the presence of dozens of other Iraqi officers. "This is a joyous occasion for Kirkuk and Iraq," said Mr. Assadi.

Gen. Ghaidan suggested the decision to turn the airbase into a civilian airport hadn't been finalized, given its strategic importance to the air force.

The ceremony topped the news bulletin on the state-owned Iraqiya TV station.

Later, the spokesman for the U.S. military in Iraq, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, told The Wall Street Journal that the base remained under American control and

that as far as the U.S. was concerned no transfer had occurred.

Gen. Buchanan said a transfer would happen in "the very near future" and that while he was concerned about the jostling for control of the airbase, his bigger worry was the unresolved conflict between the central government and the Kurdistan region.

"My bigger concern longer-term is the need to continue the political dialogue that can solve the underlying problems that still have not been resolved," he said.

The potential for a clash between Iraqi troops and Kurdish forces has been a main source of concern for many U.S. military officials in the aftermath of President Barack Obama's announcement last month that the U.S. would withdraw all troops from Iraq by the end of the year.

In testimony before Congress, the nation's second-ranking uniformed officer said this week that a chief worry once the U.S. pullout is complete is the tension between the two sides, especially in northern Iraq.

Sen. Susan Collins (R., Maine) asked Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, whether the potential conflict in the Iraqi north "will become a destabilizing flash point."

Gen. Dempsey responded: "I worry about a lot of things, senator, and I will include this among the list of things I worry about."

In Kirkuk, Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen-diverse ethnic groups belonging to Iraq's majority Muslim faith-have been immersed in a fight, at times bloody, for control of the oil-rich province.

The struggle also pits the Arab-dominated central government in Baghdad against the semiautonomous Kurdistan region, which claims authority in Kirkuk and other territories.

While the epicenter of this struggle is Kirkuk, it extends east to the Iranian border and northwest to the Syrian frontier.

At the end of 2009, the U.S. military oversaw the creation of a joint security mechanism between Kurdish forces and

the Iraqi Army to conduct patrols and man checkpoints in the disputed territories in order to foster trust and give political leaders on both sides the opportunity to resolve the conflict. Until recently, U.S. soldiers were directly involved in this security effort.

Diplomats as well as representatives from the U.S. Office for Security Cooperation will remain involved in a regional coordination center after the U.S. troops are gone, according to Gen. Buchanan.

But many, including Kirkuk's governor, fear this security mechanism could unravel after U.S. troops depart.

"They are together while the U.S. forces are here and they will be together if nothing happens," said Mr. Karim. "But God forbid if the situation changes you will probably see them split apart, going their own way."

Although the State Department is expected to remain deeply engaged with these issues, many officials in places such as Kirkuk fear it won't have the same authority or ability as the military to control the potentially explosive situation.

About 22,000 U.S. military personnel remained in Iraq as of Thursday after the departure of almost 6,000 over the past week according to the military.

- **Iraq executes 11 'terrorists' says state TV (CNN, Mohammed Tawfeeq, November 17)**

Iraq executed 11 "terrorists" Wednesday, including a Tunisian man convicted in the al-Askariya Shrine bombing in 2006, Iraqiya state TV reported on Thursday.

The name of the Tunisian man is Yusri Fakhir, state TV reported, quoting Iraq's Justice Ministry. The other 10 men were executed on unrelated terrorism convictions, Iraqiya TV reported.

Thousands of Sunnis and Shiites were killed across the country after the bombing of the al-Askraiya Shiite Shrine in Samarra in 2006. The attack destroyed two minarets of the shrine and sparked a round of bloody sectarian retaliation between Sunnis and Shiites for more than two years. Samarra is a predominately Sunni town about 100 kilometers North of Baghdad.

Separately, Police Lt. Col. Jabbar Rasheed was killed along with three other police officers when a roadside bomb exploded beneath their vehicle near Wadi Hajar bridge in central Mosul on Thursday morning, Mosul police officials tell CNN. Lt. Col. Rasheed was al-Dawasa area police chief in Mosul.

In another incident, nine people were wounded including two Iraqi soldiers when a roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi army patrol in the al-Zuhoor neighborhood in eastern Mosul on Thursday morning, Mosul police told CNN.

In central Mosul, three roadside bombs exploded near an office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) headed by Iraq's President Jalal Talabani. Police officials said the PUK office is also close to a fuel station. At least 10 people were wounded in the three explosions. Most of wounded were civilians who were lining up to get fuel for their house generators.

Mosul is located in Nineveh province about 420 kilometers north of Baghdad. Mosul is a mixed city with an Arab majority.

In Mahmoudiya, about 30 kilometers south of Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near an Iraqi army patrol on Thursday morning, an official with Iraq's Interior Ministry told CNN. At least six people were wounded in the explosion.

Although violence across Iraq has dropped dramatically since the peak of the sectarian violence, which was mostly sparked after the bombing of al-Askariya Shrine in Samarra in 2006, such attacks still occur on a daily basis.

As the December 31 deadline for the pullout of all U.S. troops approaches, these daily attacks raise more concern for Iraqis who wonder whether Iraqi security forces will be able to secure the country internally and externally.

- **Iraq Inquiry must not be held hostage (The Independent, November 18)**

A delay to the publication of the final report of the Chilcot inquiry into Britain's role in the Iraq War has raised suspicions that government departments are trying to prevent it from annexing a number of confidential documents to its conclusions.

Were that true, it would be unsurprising. Sir Gus O'Donnell, the Cabinet Secretary, has already vetoed the inclusion of notes between Tony Blair, who was Prime Minister, and the US President at the time, George Bush, on the grounds that publication could inhibit frank exchanges between leaders of the two countries in future.

Such restrictions are doubtless irritating to Sir John Chilcot and his team, but they cannot obscure the important revelations which their work has already prompted. There was much cynicism when the inquiry opened, with many assuming that it would shed about as much light as had the previous four, generally unilluminating inquiries into aspects of the Iraq conflict – from the Commons foreign affairs and security committees and the Hutton inquiry into the death of the weapons adviser Dr David Kelly, to the Butler inquiry, which at least criticised the informal "sofa" style of decision-making that characterised the Blair government.

But Sir John has proved a less malleable creature. From the outset he rejected the recommendation that he take much evidence in camera and insisted on public

hearings. Then he called a succession of witnesses, from former Cabinet Secretaries to military commanders, who sharply criticised the way Mr Blair and his close advisers took key decisions without consulting senior ministers and the Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith.

The inquiry has heard evidence that the claim that MI6 had established "beyond doubt" that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction was "not possible to make on the basis of intelligence". It showed that Mr Blair acquiesced very early on in President Bush's determination to remove Saddam and force regime change. A note from the Prime Minister's private secretary revealed that Mr Blair privately agreed, in October 2002, to commit Britain to war, while publicly suggesting he would use military force only after seeking fresh UN authority.

The Chilcot process has also shown that the Cabinet was effectively excluded from decisions on military action. It proved that Parliament was misled over the strength of intelligence, the severity of the Iraq threat and the legality of the invasion. It disclosed that Mr Blair's private secretary routinely deleted any mention of

correspondence with Mr Bush from government minutes. It showed that planning for post-war reconstruction was woeful. And it raised questions as to whether Mr Blair acted honestly when he told his press secretary to blame the French for failures at the UN.

What it has not established beyond doubt is whether Mr Blair just made the wrong judgement calls or whether he acted in bad faith – and lied to Parliament and the nation. The hope is that Chilcot will pronounce on that. It is crucial therefore that the final report should be as full and considered – and well-documented – as possible.

The delay now disclosed may be caused by something as prosaic as the volume of drafting work. But if there is any truth in suggestions that senior civil servants are trying to block the addition of important documents, then ministers must intervene to unblock the process. Conservative politicians may see little advantage in that, since their party overwhelmingly backed Tony Blair at the time. But the Liberal Democrats, who consistently opposed the war, should make it a Coalition priority that the Chilcot inquiry be as unhindered

as possible, consistent with national security, in giving a full account of what happened, what went wrong and what lessons must be learnt.

- **Iraq's Sadr backs embattled Syrian leader Assad (AFP, November 18)**

BAGHDAD - Iraq's radical anti-US Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has expressed support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, even as much of the Arab world turns against the embattled strongman.

Assad has since March been trying to crush a popular uprising against his government, in which over 3,500 people have been killed, according to UN figures.

The Arab League on November 12 voted to suspend Syria, although Iraq itself abstained, and Arab leaders on Wednesday gave Assad three days to halt his "bloody repression" of protests or face sanctions.

But there is "a big difference" between what is happening in Syria and the "great revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain and Yemen," Sadr said in a statement received by AFP on Thursday,

referring to other Arab states that have seen popular uprisings this year.

"One of the reasons behind this difference is that Bashar al-Assad is against the American and Israeli presence and his attitudes are clear, not like those who collapsed before him, or will collapse," said the statement released by his office in the city of Najaf, reiterating points Sadr made in August.

"Some of your lands are still occupied," Sadr said, referring to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, which the Jewish state seized from Syria in 1967.

Sadr also warned against throwing Syria into "an abyss of terrorism and fragmentation in the event of a vacuum in power."

"We support your demonstrations to show your opinion," Sadr said of the anti-Assad camp.

"But there are large groups that ... are with keeping the government," he said, calling for dialogue and an end to the conflict

2. IRAN / İRAN

- **Bozkır: Türkiye, İran'a karşı hiçbir girişimi kabul etmeyecek**

IRNA.Tahran.18.11.2011



Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi Dış İlişkiler Komisyonu Başkanı Volkan Bozkır, Alaaddin Burucerdi ile Ankara'da görüştüktan sonra basın mensuplarına yaptığı açıklamada, Türkiye'nin dost ülke İran'a zarar verecek girişimleri kabul etmeyeceklerini belirtti.

Bozkır ve Burucerdi bir buçuk saat süren görüşmeden sonra basın mensuplarının sorularını yanıtladılar.

Burucerdi'nin Türkiye ziyaretinden duyduğu memnuniyeti dile getiren Bozkır "İran, Türkiye için çok önemli bir komşudur. İkili görüşmelerde ekonomi, kültürel ve siyasi ilişkileri değerlendirdik ve iki ülke arasında ticaret hacminin 30 milyar dolara çıkması ve turizm iş birliğini geliştirme yollarını görüştük" dedi.

İran ve Türkiye'nin en çok terörden zarar gören iki ülke olduğuna işaret eden Bozkır "görüşmede uyuşturucu kaçakçılığı ile etkili mücadele yollarını ve başta Suriye olmak üzere bölge gelişmelerini değerlendirdik" dedi.

Türk mevkidaşı ile görüşmelerinin çok olumlu ve yapıcı geçtiğine işaret eden İslami Şura Meclisi'nin Dış Politika ve Ulusal Güvenlik Komisyonu Başkanı Alaaddin Burucerdi "İran ve Türkiye iki komşu ve dost ülke olarak ilişkileri çok iyi. Bu yıl iki ülke arasında ticaret hacmi 12 milyar dolara ulaştı ve yılsonuna kadar bu rakamın 15 milyar dolara ulaşması bekleniyor" dedi.

Burucerdi ve beraberindeki heyet çarşamba günü Ankara'ya gitti.

<http://www2.irna.ir/tr/news/view/line-120/1111185995120408.htm>

- **Brucerdi: Türkiye ile ortak noktalarımız çok fazla**

İran İslami Şura Meclisi Milli Güvenlik ve Dış Politika Komisyonu Başkanı Alaaddin Brucerdi, Türkiye ve İran arasındaki ilişkilerin gelişmekte olduğunu belirterek,

buna halel getirecek girişimlere karşı dikkatli olunması gerektiğini söyledi.

Brucerdi, AA'ya verdiği demeçte, Türkiye-İran ilişkileri, terörizmle mücadele, ABD, İsrail tehditleri ve Suriye'deki durumla ilgili açıklamalarda bulundu.

Türkiye ve İran ilişkilerinin sürekli gelişmekte olduğunu belirten Burucerdi, ikili ilişkileri daha da güçlendirmek ve bölgenin istikrarına katkıda bulunabilmek için imkan ve potansiyellerden gerektiği gibi yararlanmanın önemine değindi.

"Türkiye ile ortak noktalarımız ayrı olanlardan çok daha fazla" diyen Brucerdi, siyasi, ekonomik, ticaret ve güvenlik alanlarındaki ortak noktaların çokluğuna dikkati çekti.

İki ülkenin de Ekonomik İşbirliği Teşkilatı (EİT) ve İslam İşbirliği Teşkilatı (İİT) üyesi olduğunu hatırlatan Burucerdi, Türkiye ve İran'ın geniş bir alanda daha yakın işbirliği yapabileceklerini söyledi.

Brucerdi, "Büyük şeytan ABD'nin ve siyonist rejimin hile ve tuzaklarına karşı dikkatli olmalıyız ki ilişkilerimize halel getiremesinler" diye konuştu.

"İki ülkenin ilişkileri iyi durumda, ancak daha iyi ilişkilere sahip olunabilir" diyen Brucerdi, "Potansiyellerimiz yararlandığımızdan çok daha fazla. Ortak noktalarımızı daha da artırabiliriz" diye konuştu.

Terörizmin, hem İran hem de Türkiye için baş belası bir konu olduğunu anlatan Brucerdi, terörizmle mücadele kapsamında iki ülkenin yıllardır ortak güvenlik komitesi oluşturduğunu kaydetti.

Terörizmle mücadelenin de iki ülkenin ortak konularından biri olduğunu söyleyen Brucerdi, "Bana göre iki ülke bu konudaki mücadelesini ciddi olarak sürdürmeli" dedi.

Burucerdi, bölgesel çapta da terörizmle mücadelede işbirliğinin gerekliliğine inandıklarını belirtti.

Brucerdi, ABD'nin İran'a karşı tutumu ve bölgedeki müdahaleci politikalarının kabul edilemeyeceğini söyledi.

"ABD'nin bölgedeki varlığına ve müdahalelerine kesinlikle karşıyız" diyen Burucerdi,

"Bölge ülkelerinin kendi milli kabiliyetleri ve aralarında yapacakları işbirliğiyle bölgenin güvenliğini sağlayabileceğine inanıyoruz. Bu yüzden bölgede ABD'nin bastonuyla yürümemize gerek yok" dedi.

ABD Başkanı Barack Obama'nın verdiği sözlerden hiçbirini tutamadığını ve kendisinden öncekilerin yanlışlarını tekrarladığını anlatan Brucerdi, Washington yönetiminin, Irak, Afganistan, Filistin gibi birçok konuda başarısız olduğunu bildirdi.

ABD'nin, Mübarek, Kaddafi, Bin Ali, Abdullah Salih gibi dostlarını tek tek kaybettiğini, Bahreyn ve diğer ülkelerde de durumun benzer olduğunu belirten Brucerdi, bütün bu gelişmelerin Washington yönetimi aleyhinde olduğunu söyledi.

Brucerdi, ABD'nin yüz milyarlarca dolar harcamasına, sadece Irak'ta binlerce askerini kaybetmesine rağmen başarısızlığa uğradığını belirtti.

ABD'nin bu tür politikalarının ekonomik krize neden olduğuna değinen Brucerdi, "Wall Street'i bugün ABD'nin bir gerçeği

olarak kabul etmeliyiz. Halk toplanmış ve biz yüzde 99 olarak yüzde 1'in karşısındayız diyor, bu çok önemli bir konu" ifadelerini kullandı.

Brucerdi, Amerikan yönetiminin iç krizlerden kurtulmak ve dikkati başka yöne çekmek için yeni senaryolar peşinde olduğunu, bu yüzden de İran aleyhinde bir rapor hazırlaması için UAEK Başkanı Amano'ya emir verdiğini belirtti.

Raporun teknik açıdan da mantık ve hukuk açısından da sorunlu olduğunu belirten Brucerdi, Rusya ve Çin'in rapora itirazlarını hatırlattı.

İran'ın Suudi Arabistan'ın Washington Büyükelçisine suikast planlamakla da suçlandığını belirten Brucerdi, ABD'nin İran'a baskıyı artırmak için böylesi komik bir yola başvurduğunu söyledi.

Burucerdi, İsrail'in İran'a saldırı düşüncesini son zamanlarda yüksek bir sesle dile getirdiğini, ancak siyonist rejimin böyle bir yanışa kalkışacağını sanmadığını bildirdi.

"Siyonist rejim güçlü olsaydı 33 Gün Savaşında küçük bir grup olan Lübnan

Hizbullah'ına yenilmezdi" diyen Brucerdi, "Bütün dünya biliyor ki siyonistler dünyanın dördüncü güçlü ordusu olarak 33 Gün Savaşında İran ile çok iyi dost olan Hizbullah karşısında yenildi" ifadesini kullandı.

Brucerdi, "Hizbullah'a yenilen siyonist rejimin İran'la çatışmaya girmek istemesi onlar için büyük bir ahmaklık olur. Onların böyle bir hataya kalkışacaklarını sanmıyorum. Aksi durumda savaş İran'la sınırlı kalmayacak, bölgeyi krize sokacak" dedi.

Hassas Basra Körfezi'nin dünya ekonomisiyle iç içe geçmiş durumda olduğunu, dünya ekonomisinin zaten yeteri kadar kriz yaşadığını anlatan Brucerdi, "Sanayileşmiş ülkelerin özellikle de ABD'nin asıl enerji kaynağının temin edildiği Basra Körfezi'nin krize girmesi kesinlikle ABD'nin ve Batı'nın lehine olmayacak. Bu yüzden, böyle bir yanışı yapacaklarını sanmıyoruz. Ancak biz, çok küçük bir ihtimal dahi olsa böyle bir yanışa karşı kendimizi hazırlamış durumdayız" ifadelerini kullandı.

Burucerdi, "Siyonist İsrail'in okullarında şimdi bile çocuklara Nil'den Fırat'a

stratejisi öğretiliyor. Direniş ve mücadele olmazsa siyonist rejim bölgedeki tüm ülkelere müdahale peşinde. Bu, bölge ülkelerinin milli menfaatlerine, İslam dünyasının ve hatta bölgenin güvenliğinin aleyhine bir durumdur' dedi.

"Siyonistler hiçbir anlaşmaya ve taahhüde bağlı değiller" diyen Brucerdi, İsrail'in Nükleer Silahların Yayılmasının Önlenmesi Anlaşmasına (NPT) da taraf olmadığını hatırlattı.

Brucerdi, "200'den fazla nükleer başlıkları var" dediği İsrail'in bölge güvenliğini ciddi olarak tehdit ettiğine dikkati çekti.

İran Meclisi Milli Güvenlik ve Dış Politika Komisyonu Başkanı Brucerdi, Suriye'deki gelişmelerle ilgili değerlendirmesinde ise bu ülkede reformdan yana olduklarını söyledi.

"Bu reformların bir an önce hayata geçirilmesi gerektiğine inanıyoruz" diyen Brucerdi, "Ancak ABD ve siyonist rejimin Suriye'de kargaşa ve iç savaş çıkarması için muhaliflere silah, imkan ve para vermesine karşıyız" ifadesini kullandı.

Brucerdi, "Amerikalılar bilsin ki bu iç savaş onların lehine olmayacak. Çünkü Beşşar Esad'dan sonra Suriye'de nelerin olacağı belli değil. ABD'nin Suriye'yi kontrol edebileceği düşüncesi yanlış bir düşüncedir. Tunus, Mısır, Libya ve hiçbir yerde olmadığı gibi. Bu yüzden bölgenin yararına ve çıkarına olmayacak bir işi yapmamalıyız" dedi.

İsrail'in tehdit ve zorbalıklarına karşı duran önemli unsurlardan birinin de Suriye olduğunu belirten Brucerdi, "Suriye yıllardır İsrail'e karşı mücadele eden İslami Cihad, Hamas ve Hizbullah'ın yanında yer alıyor ve siyonist rejim karşısında duruyor. Bir ülkenin, siyonistlerin aşırılıklarına karşı mücadele etmesi, direnmesi bizim için çok değerlidir."

Brucerdi, açıklamalarının sonunda AA aracılığıyla Türkiye devleti ve halkına dostluk ve sıcak selamlarını ilettili ve Türkiye ziyaretinin yararlı görüşmelere sahne olacağını umduğunu belirtti.

<http://www2.irma.ir/tr/news/view/line-117/1111180521122323.htm>

- **Brucerdi: Türkiye ile ticaret hacmi 15 milyar dolara yaklaşacak**

Tahran, 18 Kasım 2011 - İran İslami Şura Meclisi Milli Güvenlik ve Dış Politika Komisyonu Başkanı Alaaddin Burucerdi, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti ve İran arasındaki ticaret hacminin 15 milyara yaklaşacağını söyledi.

MHA - Türkiye'de temaslarda bulunan Brucerdi, iki ülke arasında ticaret hacminin bu yıl içinde 10 milyar doları aştığını bunun yıl sonuna kadar 15 milyar dolara ulaşmasının beklendiğini söyledi.

Brucerei temaslarda bölgesel gelişmeleri Türkiyeli yetkililerle ele aldıklarını, ayrıca iki ülke meclisleri arasında işbirliğinin geliştirilmesinin de Türkiye ziyaretinin gündemleri arasında olduğunu söyledi.

Türkiye'ye füze kalkanı sisteminin radarlarının yerleştirilmesine değinen Brucerdi, Türkiye'nin bir NATO üyesi olarak bazı kararlarda yetkililerinin sınırlı olduğunu ama Türkiye'den beklenenin, NATO'nun çıkarları yerine İslam dünyası ve komşularının hayrına olacak kararları alması olduğunu söyledi.

Burucerdi, Suriye'nin İslam İşbirliği Teşkilatı üyesi olduğunun unutulmaması gerektiğini belirtti.

Brucerdi, Suriye'deki gelişmeler ile ilgili olarak, Suriye'nin İslam İşbirliği Teşkilatı üyesi olduğunun unutulmaması gerektiğini hatırlatarak, komşu ülkelerden beklentilerinin, Suriye'nin kendi sorunlarını Suriye halkının çözmesini beklemek olduğunu kaydetti.

Burucerdi, terörle mücadele konusunda ise , İran'ın terörün en büyük kurbanı olduğunu zira terörün İran'da binlerce insanın canını aldığını, Türkiye'de terör örgütü PKK gibi İran'da da terör örgütü Pejak'ın sınırlarda ve güvenlikte önemli sorunlara neden olduğunu dile getirdi ve PKK'nın bir uzantısı olan Pejak'ın İran sınırlarında kısıtlı olan faaliyetlerinin de bitirildiğini söyledi.

<http://www.mehrnews.com/tr/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1462536>

- **Salihi: Tahran ve Riyad ilişkileri kötüye gitmemeli**

Tahran, 18 Kasım 2011 - İran İslam Cumhuriyeti Dışişleri Bakanı Ali Ekber Salihi, Tahran-Riyad'ın yakınlaşması için yapılan çabalara bakıldığında Suudi Arabistan'ın iki ülke ilişkilerinin kötüye gitmemesi için son siyasi girişime özen göstermesi gerektiğini belirtti.

MHA - Basın mensuplarına konuşan Salihi, Suudi Arabistan'ın böyle bir girişimde bulunmasının beklenmediğine işaret ederek "İslam ümmeti nezdinde bir İslam ülkesinin başka bir İslam ülkesine karşı girişimde bulunması uygun bir hareket değil" dedi.

Böyle gelişmelerin gerçekleşmesini istemediklerini vurgulayan Salihi "tüm çabamız, yanlış anlaşmaların giderilmesi yönündedir eğer Suudi Arabistan ABD ile birlikte BM Genel Kuruluna sunmayı düşündüğü ve içeriğinde İran'a karşı bentlerin de bulunduğu karar taslağını düzeltirse İran, bunu imzalayanlardan olacak" dedi.

İran'ın terörle mücadelede öncü ülke olduğuna işaret eden Salihi bir süre önce Tahran'da bu konuda bir konferansın yapıldığını hatırlattı.

Salihi, Tahran'ın bölgede dostluk, barış ve istikrar ortamının yaratılmasına ve ayrıca İran ve Suudi Arabistan arasında uygun atmosferin oluşmasına çabaladığına bakıldığında Suudi Arabistan'ın böyle bir girişimde bulunmasının beklenmediğinin altını çizdi.

<http://www.mehrnews.com/tr/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1462478>

- **Salehi says Iran in talks with Russia to settle nuclear issue**

TEHRAN, Nov. 16 (MNA) – Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says the Islamic Republic is holding negotiations with Russia to find a solution to the dispute between Tehran and the West over Iran's nuclear program.

"We are in constant contact with Russian officials... and believe that their step-by-step proposal, which was a gesture of good faith," was welcomed by Iranian officials, Salehi told reporters on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday.

According to the Russian proposal, declared on July 13, Iran could address questions about its nuclear program and be rewarded with a gradual easing of sanctions.

"But our views should also be mentioned in the plan," Salehi said. "We have also made a proposal and held meetings with the Russians over its details, and they accepted it."

He went on to say that in fact, Iran is holding dialogue to find a solution to the issue and get away from new sanctions which probably would be imposed on the country in the wake of false allegations about its nuclear program.

He also said, “The latest developments in the region, including the issue of Syria, are also being discussed in our meetings with the Russians.”

We are in talks with the IAEA

In reply to a question about Tehran’s relation with the International Atomic Energy Agency after it released a report on Iran’s nuclear program, Salehi said what IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano did was an “ill-advised” and “unfair” move which was made under the West’s political pressure.

The move will discredit the IAEA, he added.

“However, we will be in contact with the agency and will not allow the situation get worse, since we believe that the agency is an international organization, and we do

not want the agency to be discredited,” Salehi explained.

Salehi also said that Iran plans to send a letter in response to the recent report of the IAEA to the relevant international institutions.

Iran will not make any hasty decision

The foreign minister said, “The West is seeking to make our country act hastily. For instance, they intend to make us say that we are not bound to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) any longer, but they are totally mistaken because we are experienced enough not to act passively.”

He also said that up until now, Iran's peaceful nuclear activities have gone well despite great political pressure exerted against the country.

“Have we retreated from our stance? Has any disruption been created in our peaceful nuclear activities despite the political pressure?”

<http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1461736>

- **Tehran criticizes anti-Iran draft resolution on U.S. plot claim**

TEHRAN, Nov. 16 (MNA) – The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations has roundly criticized the anti-Iran draft resolution that condemns Tehran’s alleged plot to assassinate the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Washington, Adel al-Jubeir.

Ambassador Mohammad Khazaii made the remarks in a letter that he sent on Wednesday to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, General Assembly President Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, and the heads of the UN delegations based in New York.

Saudi Arabia’s UN delegation circulated the U.S.-backed draft resolution to the General Assembly on Wednesday.

Abdulmohsen Alyas, the Saudi UN mission’s spokesman, said on Tuesday that the draft resolution will be put to a vote on Friday, according to Reuters.

Reuters also reported on Tuesday that the draft resolution says it “deplores the plot to assassinate the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States of America.”

It also condemns “terrorism in all its forms and manifestations” and “strongly condemns acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.”

In his letter, Ambassador Khazaii dismissed the allegations leveled against Iran and warned of the repercussions of the decision to submit the draft resolution to the assembly.

He also wrote that the move set a dangerous precedent, is unacceptable, and ruins the reputation of the UN.

He added that the draft resolution, which is backed by the U.S. and is based on unfounded allegations, is merely meant to advance the short-sighted policies of Washington.

The mechanism of the assembly used not to allow the submission and review of draft resolutions drawn up based on false allegations, Khazaii said.

Those who presented the draft resolution have flouted UN regulations, he said, adding that the move will definitely

undermine the role and credibility of the assembly.

The Iranian ambassador also described the move as a threat to regional and international security.

Khazaii also wrote about the Iranian mission's letter to UN authorities dated October 11, 2011, in which he emphasized that Iran is opposed to terrorism in all its forms and called for the letter to be registered as a UN official document.

Elsewhere in the letter, he stated that the Islamic Republic fully abides by its commitments to the terms of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, which was adopted in New York on December 14, 1973, and called on the countries which prepared the draft resolution against Tehran to comply with the convention.

The propaganda campaign that the U.S. has launched against Iran and the accusations that it has made against Tehran show Washington's evil and hostile intentions, he said.

However, based on the authentic documents that Iran has presented to the UN, the U.S. has backed many terrorist actions against the Iranian government and people, Khazaii wrote.

Iran ready to sign draft resolution if changes are made to it

Iranian Foreign Minister on Wednesday criticized the move by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia and said that Tehran did not expect Riyadh to take such a move.

Speaking to ISNA, Salehi stated, "We are the supporters of the campaign against terrorism and are in the forefront (of the campaign), and we held an international conference on the issue in Tehran a few months ago. Therefore, we agree with most of the content of the draft resolution and could be a signatory to the resolution. However, in one or two paragraphs, the issue of the U.S. recent scenario, has been mentioned, which, if dropped or revised, the draft could be agreed upon by the majority of UN member states."

"Given the efforts that the Islamic Republic of Iran has made to create an

atmosphere of friendship, peace, and stability in the region and to create a proper atmosphere (in the relations) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia, it was not expected that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. put forward such a proposal. And the alignment of Saudi Arabia and the U.S. is not good in the view of the Islamic ummah,” he added.

Salehi also said, “Saudi politicians are experienced, and, given our efforts to bring the two countries closer together, we hope that the Saudis would carefully consider their very political action so that the situation would not be complicated further. And we do not wish that relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia would become more complicated.”

<http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1461684>

- **Panetta: Strike on Iran could hurt world economy**

By REUTERS

On eve of talks with Barak in Canada, US defense secretary says US will focus on diplomatic pressure on Tehran; Panetta points out that attack on Iran would set

back nuclear program by 1 or 2 years at most.



US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said he would raise American concerns about the unintended consequences of any military action against Iran during talks with Defense Minister Ehud Barak on Friday, including its potential impact on the world economy.

Tension over Iran's nuclear program has increased since the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported last week that Tehran appeared to have worked on designing a bomb and may still be conducting secret research to that end.

Panetta, speaking to reporters traveling with him to Canada, said the United States believed the most effective way to confront Iran still was to use diplomatic pressure and sanctions to try to curb the Islamic state's nuclear program.

"Obviously to go beyond that raises our concerns about the unintended consequences that could result," Panetta said.

He pointed to a US analysis that a strike on Iran would set back its nuclear program, which Iran says is only for peaceful purposes, by one or two years at most. It would also have implications for US forces in the region.

"And I have to tell you, thirdly, there are going to be economic consequences to that, that could impact not just on our economy but the world economy," Panetta said.

"So those things all need to be considered."

Panetta is due to attend a security forum in Halifax, Canada, where he will also hold bilateral talks with Barak on Friday.

"I've made those points before and I'll discuss them again," Panetta said, asked about what message he would deliver to Barak.

The six powers involved in diplomacy on Iran - the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany - hammered out a joint resolution in intense negotiations and submitted it to the 35-nation board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a Vienna-based UN body, which is expected to debate and vote on it on Friday.

It aims to increase pressure on Iran to address fears about its atomic ambitions. But it is not expected to satisfy those in the West and in Israel, who had hoped IAEA document would trigger concrete international action, such as an IAEA referral of its case to the UN Security Council

<http://www.ipost.com/IranianThreat/New/Article.aspx?id=246047>

3. ISRAEL - PALESTINE / İSRAİL – FİLİSTİN

- **İsrail'den inşaat malzemelerine izin**
İsrail ordusunun, inşaat malzemesi taşıyan araçların Gazze'ye girişine izin verdiği bildirildi.

KUDÜS - Malzemelerin militanlarca kullanılabilceği endişesiyle şimdiye kadar yalnızca uluslararası projelerde kullanılan malzemelerin ithal edilmesine izin veren İsrail'in, özel mülkiyetli fabrikaların onarımında kullanılacak inşaat malzemelerini taşıyan iki kamyonu bugün giriş izni verdiği kaydedildi.

Kamyonların girişi Filistinli yetkililer tarafından da doğrulanırken, İsraili askeri yetkililer, gelecek günlerde daha fazla sayıda aracın girişine izin verileceğini belirtti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297908/>

- **Israel effectively annexes Palestinian land near Jordan Valley**

Separation barrier route in Kibbutz Merav area changed leaving 1,500 dunams on Israeli side; may be first transfer of Palestinian-owned land to community on sovereign Israeli territory.

By Akiva Eldar

Israel carried out a de facto annexation of Palestinian land northeast of the Jordan Valley and given it to Kibbutz Merav. Merav, part of the Religious Kibbutz Movement, is about seven kilometers northwest of the parcel.

The route of the separation barrier in the area was changed so that the plot in question, about 1,500 dunams (375 acres), would be on the Israeli side.



A tractor working Kibbutz Merav's fields between the separation fence and the Green Line.

Photo by: Alon Ron

Israel has previously built roads on and given Palestinian land in the West Bank to Jewish settlements, but this is thought to be the first instance of Palestinian-owned land being transferred to a community on sovereign Israeli territory.

A spokesman for the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Maj. Guy Inbar, confirmed that the property is in the West Bank and said, "Kibbutz Merav has been farming this land for decades."

The issue of the land's legal status and its transfer to Merav is clouded in mystery, and official statements have been contradictory. All efforts to locate documents explaining the situation have failed, Inbar said.



Map of disputed land near Kibbutz Merav.

The kibbutz is in the Emek Mayanot Regional Council, whose jurisdiction is entirely within the Green Line. In a statement, council officials said the land is beyond its jurisdiction and that the Israel Lands Administration controls land allocations to the council's member communities.

Ofer Amar, a spokesman for the World Zionist Organization's Jewish settlement division said the tract is classified as farmland within the Emek Mayanot

Regional Council. He said the settlement division had no authority over the parcel.

Kibbutz Merav's secretary general, David Yisrael, confirmed the kibbutz has been farming the land for years, growing field crops including corn as well as citrus fruit. He said he had a lease with the ILA for it, but refused to show it to Haaretz.

An official in the Civil Administration said Yisrael refused to show the contract to his agency, too.

ILA spokeswoman Ortal Tzabar said the ILA had no knowledge of the matter, as it does not deal with land outside sovereign Israeli territory.

"There is a straight line from plundering these 1,500 dunams to Amona, Migron and Givat Asaf, outposts that were built years later," said Dror Etkes, director of Peace Now's Settlements Watch Project, who detected the annexed land in aerial photographs.

If the appropriation of the Palestinian farmers' lands in the Jordan Valley had happened now, rather than in the 1970s,

Israeli civil rights groups would have prevented it, Etkes said.

"This is an example of why it so important for MK Ofir Akunis and his wacky right-wing colleagues to conceal and silence leftist organizations and turn the High Court of Justice and the media into the government's puppets," Etkes said.

Ashraf Madrasa, from the nearby village of Bardallah, showed Haaretz an ownership deed from 1961 for a 36-dunam tract of the land. He said the Israel Defense Forces seized the land, declared it a "military area," drove out the owners and ordered never to return.

A number of landowners were given alternative plots belonging to "absentee" Palestinians who fled during the 1967 Six-Day War. Sami Rajab, whose family farms in the area, said that in exchange for several plots in the area he was evicted from, his father received a tract that belonged to his uncle, who emigrated to Canada.

Recently his cousin came to visit and demanded his lands back, Rajab related. "We told him he had to ask the Israeli

government to give it back to him," Rajab said.

According to international law Israel is the custodian of absentee property in the West Bank and is prohibited from giving it to settlers, not to mention to communities within Israel.

In an opinion issued in 1997, the Civil Administration's legal adviser said: "The Custodian of Absentee Property in the West Bank is nothing but a trustee looking after the property so it is not harmed while the owners are absent from the area ... the custodian may not make any transaction regarding the asset that conflicts with the obligation to safeguard the asset as stated, especially his obligation to return the asset to the owner upon his return to the region."

The state comptroller wrote in a 2004 report that thousands of dunams of privately-owned Palestinian lands were given to Israeli communities in the Jordan Valley in the 1960s and 1970s, according to ILA and Custodian of Absentee Property documents.

The ILA continued "these allocations, defined in the above documents as apparently illegal, after that as well," he wrote.

<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/israel-effectively-annexes-palestinian-land-near-jordan-valley-1.396225>

- **' Hamas-Fatah unity would harm diplomatic process'**

By HERB KEINON AND KHALED ABU TOAMEH

Officials in J'lem warn Abbas can't have both peace with Israel, reconciliation with Hamas; PA officials: Deal moving forward.



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas cannot have both peace with Israel and reconciliation with Hamas, officials in Jerusalem said on Thursday as Fatah announced significant progress toward forming a unity government with Hamas.

"If Abbas consummates this marriage in a meeting next week with [Hamas head Khaled] Mashaal, this is a big problem for us," one official said. "We have said before that Abbas can choose peace with us or Hamas, but they don't go together."

Washington is also sending messages to Abbas not to sign off on a deal with Hamas, warning that the PA could once again face a cutoff of US funds if it did so without Hamas first recognizing Israel, forswearing terrorism, and accepting previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

Congress temporarily held up funding to the PA after Abbas took his statehood bid to the UN in September.

One Israeli official characterized Abbas's behavior over the past few months as "problematic," saying that this was seen by his moves at the UN, his public praise for the kidnapping of soldier Gilad Schalit, and his refusal to condemn last month's round of missile fire from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

"If he now consummates all that with a move forward toward Hamas, it can seriously harm the peace process," the

official said. He stopped short, however, of saying what concrete actions Israel would take in response to a Hamas-Fatah rapprochement.

Meanwhile, senior Fatah official Azzam al-Ahmed said on Thursday that Fatah and Hamas were close to reaching agreement on the identity of the prime minister who would head a new caretaker government dominated by independent figures. He also said the two parties were close to agreeing on a joint-political platform.

The new government's main goal would be to prepare for elections, he added.

The announcement came ahead of a planned summit in Cairo on November 23 between Abbas and Mashaal.

Last May, Hamas and Fatah announced that they had reached an agreement to end their differences and form a government that would prepare for presidential and parliamentary elections.

However, Fatah's insistence on the nomination of incumbent Salam Fayyad as head of the unity government prevented

the implementation of the Egyptianengineered reconciliation deal.

Hamas says it would never be part of any government that was headed by Fayyad. The party blames him for the crackdown on Hamas in the West Bank and says he was a figure imposed on the Palestinians by the US.

But in recent days some Fatah officials appear to have changed their minds and are no longer insisting that Fayyad serve as prime minister of the proposed unity government.

Earlier this week, Fayyad expressed readiness to step down to avoid being an obstacle to the implementation of the Hamas-Fatah accord.

Ahmed revealed this week that he had held secret talks in Cairo with top Hamas official Musa Abu Marzouk to discuss ways of removing obstacles hindering the implementation of the reconciliation agreement.

According to a senior PA official in Ramallah, Ahmed informed the Hamas

official that Fatah was no longer insisting on Fayyad's candidacy.

Ahmed said that Fatah and Hamas have made progress toward reaching an agreement on the political platform of the new government. He said the platform calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state along the pre-1967 lines, launching a "popular resistance" and continuing Palestinian political moves in international forums such as the UN.

<http://www.ipost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=246040>

- **Barak tries damage control after 'Iran gaffe'**

Israeli defence minister walks back from comments that appeared to empathise with Tehran's alleged nuclear quest.



Iranian students at a demonstration to show their support for Iran's nuclear programme in Isfahan [Reuters]

Ehud Barak, the Israeli defence minister, has reassured Israelis about his government's resolve after he appeared to empathise with Iran's alleged quest for nuclear weapons during a US television interview.

Barak's suggestion that, were he Iranian, he would "probably" seek the bomb made headlines in Israel, where the government feels threatened by the Islamic republic but has looked to world powers to intervene with tough diplomacy.

Taking time off from a visit to Canada to brief Israel's main radio broadcasters, Barak said on Thursday that his remarks, which were in English, had been partly misunderstood.

His attempt at damage control came as Yukiya Amano, the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, said he wants to send a high-level delegation to Iran to address credible information that Iran had carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear bomb.

During a Wednesday appearance on the PBS program Charlie Rose, Barak was

asked if he would "want a nuclear weapon" were he a member of Iran's government.

"Probably, probably. I know, it's not - I don't delude myself that they are doing it just because of Israel," he responded. "They look around, they see the Indians are nuclear, the Chinese are nuclear, Pakistan is nuclear ... not to mention the Russians."

Empathy denied

Questioned about the remarks, Barak denied empathising with the Iranians and pointed out that he had also argued that the government there threatens Middle East stability and safeguards against the spread of nuclear weaponry.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be perceived as the country that sits and whinges and dreads and says, 'They are going to do who-knows-what to us,'" Barak told Israel Radio. "We must make clear that we understand the matter thoroughly and that this is a challenge to the whole world, because it threatens the whole world."

Barak, speaking to reporters in Hebrew, said his response on Charlie Rose amounted to "could be, I don't know".

He gave a similar explanation on Israel's Army Radio, but one commentator fired back by reworking the hypothetical question: "If I were Israeli, I wouldn't want my defence minister saying such things."

Many in Israel say they fear an Iranian nuclear strike, while Tehran says its atomic programme is meant to supply energy needs.

Israel has long hinted it could launch last-ditch, preemptive attacks on Iranian atomic facilities.

'Not very optimistic'

Barak also said, in advance of a meeting of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), that he was "not very optimistic" about the prospects of strong new sanctions against Iran.

"I'm not very optimistic, there are difficulties in mobilising will in the world. That's why we're working to convince foreign leaders to impose strong and

concrete sanctions to stop Iran," he told public radio.

"Today there is an important meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, and we should not appear to be a country that whines, that is afraid, but simply stress that Iran has launched a challenge to the whole world...and the world must move," he said.

The IAEA was expected to discuss passing a new resolution against Iran, after publishing intelligence last week indicating covert military dimensions to its uranium enrichment and other projects.

"Our technical experts have spent years painstakingly and objectively analysing a huge quantity of information from a wide variety of independent sources, including from a number of member states, from the agency's own efforts and from information provided by Iran itself," said Amano, the watchdog's chief. "The agency finds the information to be, overall, credible."

Amano said he hoped Iran would agree to an inspection date soon.

But Iran has dismissed the new IAEA report as meaningless and created in a hasty way, saying it is not seeking to create a nuclear programme.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011111711051344516.html>

4. AFRICA and EGYPT / AFRİKA ve MISİR

• Sisters' bid for parliament: a real or cosmetic move?

Noha El-Hennawy



Photographed by other

Like most Muslim Sisters, Fatma Abdel Hafez grew up within the Muslim Brotherhood's tightly knit networks. She was born to a father who spent six years in Gamal Abdel Nasser's jails due to his affiliation with Egypt's oldest Islamist organization. When she decided to marry, her husband came from the same circles. Her late father-in-law was a member of the Brotherhood's Guidance Bureau.

For years before the revolution, Abdel Hafez was involved in promoting political awareness within the group's Sisters division in her hometown of Beni Suef.

"My interest in public affairs developed spontaneously as I grew up," Abdel Hafez says.

Soon Abdel Hafez may find a new platform to express her passion for politics. She is one of at least 70 women the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) is fielding as candidates in the parliamentary elections set to begin on 28 November.

Who are the FJP's women?

Like many female candidates, Abdel Hafez's professional expertise is mainly in pedagogy and social work. For 16 years she has worked at a privately owned Islamic school in her city and been involved in the Brotherhood's philanthropic activities.

Aside from holding rallies, Abdel Hafez's campaign also relies on the internet. Her Facebook page seeks to demonstrate her history of civic engagement, featuring

pictures of her speaking at various conferences and updates of her local tours. In all photos, the parliamentary hopeful, who identifies herself on the social networking site as a proud Muslim, appears in a veil that reaches down to her waist.

If she wins, Abdel Hafez says she will focus on urgent issues that preoccupy most Egyptians. "For the time being, there is a need to fix the security situation and the economy," says Abdel Hafez, a first-time candidate.

Some of her peers are making their second attempts at a parliamentary bid. Wafaa Mostafa Mashhour, the daughter of a former Brotherhood supreme guide, challenged a candidate from the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) in the 2010 parliamentary elections for a seat allocated to women in Assiut.

"I chalked up a remarkable victory but the results were rigged at the end," says the 58-year-old Islamic education pioneer. She relates the strength of her support base to her involvement in providing family and couples counseling for over 15 years in her hometown.

A conservative outlook

Not unlike their male counterparts, the FJP female candidates pledge to focus on various issues, including addressing the security vacuum, safeguarding people's liberties, improving economic conditions by restructuring salaries, imposing a maximum wage and mending the education system.

On women's issues, FJP female candidates seem to endorse a typical Islamist conservative agenda, which secularists believe perpetuates male supremacy. In an interview with the party's daily newspaper Freedom and Justice, Azza al-Garf, the party's 46-year-old candidate in Giza, said that if she wins, she will work toward reversing "women's and children's laws that were promulgated in the defunct [Mubarak] epoch and violate Islamic Sharia and human nature."

That attitude might hit a nerve with many liberal feminists who suspect that the political ascent of Islamists in post-Mubarak Egypt will translate into regression in the realm of women's and children's laws.

Since Mubarak's departure, some Islamist groups have expressed vehement opposition to laws that give women the right to divorce their husbands, criminalize female circumcision, give women the right to register their children even if the father is unknown and extend child custody age to 15. Liberal feminists suspect that Islamists will reverse these laws if they dominate parliament.

FJP candidates, mostly professional women, fully support the right to work, but with some conditions. "A woman has the right to go out as long as she does not violate Sharia commandments in her clothes and conduct," says Mashhour, who says she hopes workplaces will impose Islamic dress rules — presumably the veil — on female employees.

Genuine belief or tactical move?

In recent weeks, the FJP electoral campaign has devoted particular attention to promoting its female candidates.

At least once a week, the party's daily newspaper runs a profile of a female parliamentary nominee, highlighting her

background and agenda. If there is one common theme in all these portraits, it is the interviewees' attempts to defuse allegations that the Brotherhood has no genuine belief in women's empowerment and that female candidates serve as window dressing for the party.

When asked to respond to claims that the Brothers are fielding many women out of necessity, since the new electoral law mandates that each party include a woman on its list, Garf called the claim "untrue."

"If you look at the FJP female nominees, you will find that all of them are known for their social activities in their own areas. Such activities have been supported by the group and the party. So how could you say that they are fielded just for window dressing purposes?" she said.

But the specific placement of female candidates on the party's electoral lists suggests the party may not be seriously betting on its female candidates' success.

The FJP has posted 36 of its 46 lists set to compete for 332 seats of the parliament's lower house. A female candidate appears

in the top half of only seven lists. For the Shura Council, FJP female candidates appear at the bottom half of more than 50 percent of the party's 30 lists.

On a separate occasion, FJP Secretary General Mohamed Saad al-Katatny said that candidates who appear on the bottom half of lists have little chance to win in a proportional representation system.

Female candidates refuse to assign any significance to their placements.

"We FJP members do not care about our ranking on the list because we do our job whether we make it to parliament or not," says Abdel Hafez, who is fifth on a list of eight candidates in her district.

"I have a role to play, whether in parliament or outside parliament," she adds.

Women are believed to constitute nearly 25 percent of Muslim Brotherhood members. In 2000, the group fielded its first female candidate for parliament to prove its departure from its early

ideology, which prescribed women's roles to looking after their children.

"The Muslim Brotherhood's position on women is no different from that of the rest of the society; it is a traditional and conservative position," says Khalil al-Anani, a political scientist at Durham University and an expert on the group.

According to a recent study by a local women's advocacy group, the electoral lists of many parties showed a small role for women, either placing them toward the bottom of lists or excluding them completely.

The report shows that FJP policy is not drastically different from that of, for example, the well-established liberal Wafd Party. While women constitute 10 percent of the FJP-dominated Democratic Alliance lists, they take up no more than 15.4 percent of the Wafd's lists, according to the report.

For Anani, the FJP nomination of dozens of female candidates remains more "a symbolic step rather than a reflection of the group's belief in the importance of women's political roles."

The status of women within the Brotherhood remains "unhealthy and disturbed," he said.

Muslim Sisters are still denied the right to vote in the 83-year-old organization's internal elections. Membership in the group's supreme bodies has remained restricted to males, and women's political roles have been limited to backing men in different elections by mobilizing voters.

Yet the party's female candidates refuse to acknowledge these apparent aspects of discrimination. "Men and women are equal inside the group," says Abdel Hafez. "Regardless of whether she votes or not [in internal elections], a woman's view reaches [the leadership] and is taken into consideration."

Denying women access to senior positions was more of a protective measure that aimed at sparing women the police harassment that key Brotherhood leaders were subjected to under Mubarak, argues Hafez.

For Anani, Abdel Hafez belongs to the conservative middle generation of the

Brotherhood that voices no discomfort over the status quo. Younger Sisters have a more progressive outlook, he adds.

Earlier this year, Al-Masry Al-Youm spoke to some of the group's ambitious young female activists that were heavily involved in the 18-day uprising.

They said that the status of women within the organization should be revisited and that Sisters should no longer be excluded from the group's highest leadership bodies.

It remains to be seen if these young Sisters will be strong enough to change the Brotherhood's outlook.

<http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/node/515767>

- **Libya's Muslim Brotherhood holds their first congress in Benghazi after 25 years**



Libyan Muslim Brotherhood leader Suleiman Abdelkader speaks during the 9th Conference of the Muslim Brotherhood in Benghazi. (Reuters)

By AL ARABIYA WITH AGENCIES
BENHAZI AND TRIPOLI

Libya's Muslim Brotherhood, repressed under the regime of fallen strongman Muammar Qaddafi, has opened its first public congress inside the country for almost 25 years.

"This is a historic day for us and for the Libyan people," its leader Suleiman Abdelkader told AFP at the opening late Thursday of the three-day congress in the eastern city of Benghazi.

Brotherhood officials said it was their first public meeting inside Libya in almost quarter of a century, although it met underground during Qaddafi's rule for fear of reprisals or held their congress abroad.

The meeting of about 700 people was at a wedding hall in Benghazi, the eastern city where the revolt against Qaddafi began.

Officials of Libya's ruling National Transitional Council, including Islamic

Affairs Minister Salem el-Sheikli and Defense Minister Jalal al-Degheili, attended the opening in Benghazi.

The congress was due to elect a leader and discuss strategy, notably whether to form a political party, said Abdelkader.

The Brotherhood supports the idea of a “civil” state but founded on Islamic values, he said. “This country belongs to all its people and everybody must participate in its construction.”

As Libya emerges from a bloody civil war, many observers believe the next elections could pit religious political groups against secular parties, with better-organized Islamists such as the Brotherhood having a tactical advantage.

“Rebuilding Libya is not a task for one group or one party but for everyone, based on their ability,” Abdelkader said.

His remarks appeared to be an expression of support for the idea of a technocratic interim government, which Abdurrahim al-Keib, the prime minister designate, is trying to assemble by a Tuesday deadline.

Abdelkader would not, however, be drawn on whether the Brotherhood wanted one of its members to be part of the interim cabinet, which is due to organize elections in June to a constituent assembly.

“Maybe some (members) will join based on their qualifications and ability. But for this time period we will not join as a party,” he told Reuters after his speech.

The slickly organized event was heavy in revolutionary references, with the stage draped in the new national colors and speeches given by guest speakers from Tunisian moderate Islamist party Ennahda and Syria's banned Muslim Brotherhood.

There was also a general mood of celebration for a movement that was founded in 1949 but which organizers said had not held a public meeting in Libya until now.

“I feel great. It’s freedom. It’s like a dream for us,” said Abdallah Dahmani, a 65 year-old university lecturer in chemistry. Many delegates, like Dahmani, were intellectuals with advanced degrees and spoke fluent English.

Secrecy

Members interviewed by Reuters had often joined decades ago and had either lived abroad or were forced to keep their membership secret for fear of arrest, torture and imprisonment.

After so many years of secrecy, they said they were eager to show the Libyan public that there was nothing sinister about their group— an offshoot of Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, that country’s most popular and organized political force.

“There’s nothing secret. We’re not planning to destroy the country,” said Abdou Majid Saleh Musbah, 56, an engineer from Tripoli who joined the movement in 1979.

Meanwhile, Abdelkarim Belhaj, the former jihadist who heads the military council in the Libyan capital, said on Thursday that a deal had been reached with the ruling National Transitional Council for former civilian rebels to sit in the country’s new cabinet.

"We have reached an agreement that candidates from the thwar (civilian rebels)

will receive certain very specific portfolios," Belhaj said at the start of a military parade, without elaborating.

“We hope that these promises will be kept,” added the man, whom Libyan media have suggested is among the leading candidates for the defense ministry.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/18/177829.html>

- **Egyptians back in Tahrir against army’s ‘supra-constitutional’ plans**



Thousands of Egyptians massed in Cairo’s Tahrir Square for a “million man” march on Friday against the ruling military council. (Al Arabiya)

By AL ARABIYA WITH AGENCIES
CAIRO

Thousands of Egyptians were massing in Cairo’s Tahrir Square early on Friday for a mass rally against the military rulers’ proposed “supra-constitutional principles”

that seek to shield the army from public scrutiny.

Liberal and Islamist group, including the powerful Muslim Brotherhood movement, announced they would hold the rally after the government went ahead with its plan to draft overarching constitutional principles.

Tents were pitched and sound stages set up as protesters returned to Tahrir square, the epicenter of an uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak from office in February, in what they said was an attempt to put “the revolution back on track.”

“There will be a big revolution tomorrow,” said a protester demanding rights for Egyptians killed and wounded in the revolution.

The government’s draft drew fire from most quarters for including clauses that removed the ruling military’s budget from parliamentary oversight and allowed the military final say on military-related laws.

The government revised the draft, but the Islamists, who organized a mass protest in

July against such a charter, have rejected the very idea of a document that would limit parliament’s authority to draft the constitution.

“The protest on Friday is to reclaim power from the army and oppose Silmi’s document,” said Mohamed Fathi from the youth group the Front to Protect the Revolution.

Salafi parties and movements, who follow orthodox Islamic teachings, were the earliest to galvanize support for the Friday protest, with the Muslim Brotherhood and a number of liberal parties following suit.

“Our demands are the revolution’s demands ... our sit-in is open until we leave,” said protester Abdulla Ibrahim.

Any extended protest by demonstrators camping in Tahrir square could potentially destabilize preparations for a parliamentary vote due on Nov. 28.

Political groups have demanded the military council announce a clear timetable for handing power over to an elected civilian government with a

deadline for presidential elections no later than April 2012.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/18/177807.html>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON / ÜRDÜN

- **Lebanon's Arabic press digest - Nov.18, 2011**

The Daily Star

Following are summaries of some of the main stories in a selection of Lebanese newspapers Friday. The Daily Star cannot vouch for the accuracy of these reports.

Al-Mustaqbal

Hezbollah disturbed by Ban's report on 1701 ... military urged to 'distance itself from wrong calculations'

Mikati wants ... doesn't want to resign over [STL] funding

Hezbollah issued a statement Thursday in response to the new report of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on resolution 1701, saying it contained "fallacies and appeared to be disturbed and tense because the Lebanese people chose to strengthen their position in the

face of the Zionist occupation and its ongoing aggression."

Prime Minister Najib Mikati denied as "untrue" remarks quoted by MP Robert Ghanem regarding his resignation in the event the government failed to fund the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Army Commander Gen. Jean Kahwagi urged troops to "be on full alert to face the difficulties and dangers of tomorrow and distance yourselves from wrong calculations promoted by some from here or there."

Kahwagi stressed the need to "preserve unity and independence as well as protecting all Lebanese of different affiliations."

As-Safir

'Wage war' to be resolved before end of November

"PSP outside government flock

At the internal political scene, Public Works Minister Ghazi Aridi accused the

Cabinet Thursday of withholding funds for his ministry's projects.

As a result of the dispute, Aridi announced he was boycotting Cabinet meetings until funds for his ministry have been secured. He also held the government and Finance Minister Mohammad Safadi, without naming the latter, responsible for "underestimating public concerns."

The Progressive Socialist Party also flew outside the government flock when Social Affairs Minister Wael Abu Faour criticized Lebanon's vote on Syria at the Arab League, saying that "the government is embarrassed and bewildered by Lebanon's position at the Arab League."

Meanwhile, the issue of amending salary increases was back to the forefront and expected to be resolved before the end of November. Meetings of a committee tasked with discussing the cost of living index will gain momentum Monday with the arrival of Labor Minister Charbel Nahhas from Geneva. A final agreement is expected to be reached that will put an end to proposals and counter proposals regarding a pay raise.

Al-Joumhouria

Positively or negatively, STL funding to be resolved before the holidays

Sources close to Prime Minister Najib Mikati stressed that the security situation in Lebanon is under control.

Al-Joumhouria has learned that Mikati informed foreign ambassadors he recently met of his intentions to solve the issue of funding for the STL during the same session that government convenes to discuss the 2012 state budget.

Sources following up on the issue of STL funding told Al-Joumhouria that contrary to what some believe, the matter is even more important than the renewal of the tribunal's protocol between Lebanon and the United Nation since it is directly linked to U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon.

According to the protocol agreement, Lebanon has no say on the issue of renewal while paying Lebanon's share of the court's budget is directly linked to the government – whether it approves it or not.

Al-Liwaa

Troubling diplomatic questions await Lebanon answers

Sources close to Prime Minister Najib Mikati were resolute on the issue of funding for the STL, saying the decision to finance the tribunal rules out discussions concerning the resignation of the government.

More importantly are the troubling questions raised by ambassadors and consuls during talks with Mikati and other officials in the government and Parliament.

These questions go beyond the issue of the STL and its funding but to the security situation in Lebanon as Syria stands on the edge of a civil war. Of course, these questions will remain unanswered.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2011/Nov-18/154484-lebanons-arabic-press-digest---nov18-2011.ashx#axzz1e2pYLy5M>

6. SYRIA / SURİYE

• 'Suriye'ye Batı değil Türkiye müdahale etsin'

Suriye Müslüman Kardeşler Örgütü Genel Başkanı Riyad Şükfa, Suriye'ye dış müdahale bir zorunluluk haline gelirse, Suriye halkı, Batı'dan değil, Türkiye'den gelecek bir müdahaleyi kabul edecektir" dedi.



İSTANBUL - Riyad Şükfa, Türkiye ve Ürdün'e, Suriyeli mültecilere kucak açtıkları için özellikle teşekkür ettiğini belirterek mülteciler konusunda aynı tutumu Lübnan'dan da beklediklerini, bu ülkeye Suriyeli mültecilere yabancı gibi davranmayı bırakması çağrısında bulundu.

'SURİYE'DEKİ KAYIPLARA SESSİZ KALINDI'
Şükfa, Suriye'de bugün yaşanan olayların yeni olmadığını, Esad ailesi yönetiminin bu uygulamaları yıllardır sürdürdüğünü, 1980'lerdeki Halep, Hama katliamlarının buna örnek teşkil ettiğini söyledi.

Dünya kamuoyunun Suriye'deki olaylara gösterdiği tepkiyi yeterli bulmadığını belirten Şükfa, Libya lideri Kaddafi'nin öldürülmesiyle ayağa kalkan çevrelerin, Suriye'de binlerce insan öldürülürken sessiz kaldığını belirtti.

'TÜRKİYE BÖLGE İÇİN DEMOKRASİ ANLAMINA GELİYOR'

Kendilerinin ve bütün Suriye halkının, Türk Konsoloslughuna ve bayrağına yapılan saldırıları kınadığını söyleyen Şükfa, Türkiye'nin bölgeleri için demokrasiyi temsil ettiğinin altını çizdi.

Suriye'de muhalefetin, bütün kesimleri bir araya getirdiğini ifade eden Şükfa, özgürlük, adalet ve eşitlik zemininde tamamen sivil bir hükümet kurulmasını amaçladıklarını vurguladı. Şükfa, Müslüman Kardeşler Örgütü'nün Suriye'de özgürlüklerden yana olduğunu da vurguladı.

PARAMİLİTER GÜÇLERE 30 BİN TAKIM ELBİSE

Esad rejiminin özgürlüklere hiçbir zaman izin vermeyeceğini, çünkü bunun o rejimin sonu anlamına geleceğini kaydeden Şükfa, Esad'ın Arap Birliği kararlarına uyacağını

söyleyip uymamasının da bunu gösterdiğini söyledi.

Esad rejiminin geçtiğimiz günlerde 30 bin mavi takım elbise sipariş ettiğini bildiren Şükfa, mavi takım elbiselerin rejimin paramiliter gücü olan Şebiha Kuvvetleri için ısmarlandığını, ülkede başta konsolosluklara yapılanlar olmak üzere, birçok saldırının failinin de Şebiha Kuvvetleri olduğunu iddia etti.

Riyad Şükfa, Suriye'de her geçen gün daha çok kan aktığını, rejimin artık, halkın kendisini istemediğini anlayıp iktidarı halka devretmesi gerektiğini söyledi.

ÇOK SESLİ, DEMOKRATİK VE SİVİL HÜKÜMET

Suriye Müslüman Kardeşler Örgütü Siyasi Büro Şefi ve Suriye Ulusal Konseyi İcra Kurulu üyesi Muhammed Faruk Tayfur da yaptığı konuşmada, amaçlarının, Suriye'de demokratik, açık ve insan haklarına saygılı bir düzen kurulması olduğunu vurguladı.

Tayfur, Suriye'de yaşananları, "devrim" olarak nitelediği konuşmasında, dış destek iddialarını reddetti ve hareketin tamamen ulusal olduğunun altını çizdi. Tayfur, rejime karşı verilen mücadelede bütün

etnik unsurların, dinlerin ve mezheplerin yer aldığını söyledi.

Tayfur, Suriye'de çok sesli, demokratik ve sivil bir düzeni hedeflediklerini ve Türkiye'yi örnek aldıklarını açıkladı. "Suriye halkı Batı'dan değil, Türkiye'den gelecek dış müdahaleyi Kabul eder"

SURİYE LİBYA İLE KARIŞTIRILMAMALI

Tayfur, Suriye'nin, Libya'yla karıştırılmaması gerektiğini, iki ülkenin durumlarının farklı olduğunu, herhangi bir dış müdahalelerin ülkelerin altyapısını yok ettiğini, bu nedenle dış müdahale taleplerinin olmadığını kaydetti. Faruk, ancak hiç temenni etmemelerine rağmen, bir dış müdahale olması durumunda da bunun sorumluluğunun kendi halkını öldüren rejime ait olacağını söyledi.

TÜRKİYE'DEN GELECEK MÜDAHALE KABUL EDİLİR

Aynı soruya yanıt veren Riyad Şükfa ise dış müdahalenin bir zorunluluk haline gelmesi durumunda, Suriye halkının, Batı'dan değil, Türkiye'den gelecek bir müdahaleyi kabul edebileceğini söyledi.

Suriye'de rejim güçleriyle silahlı çatışmaya giren Suriye Özgür Ordusuyla ilgili

değerlendirmelerinin sorulması üzerine Riyad Şükfa, ülkedeki devrimin, temelde barışçıl olduğunun altını çizdi, ancak ordunun sivil halka müdahalesine itiraz ederek, ordudan ayrılan askerlerin rejimle silahlı çatışmaya girdiklerini doğruladı. Şükfa, bu güçlerin, rejime ait istihbarat merkezine saldırdıklarını da kabul etti.

TÜRKİYE TECRÜBESİ ÖRNEĞİMİZ

Esad rejiminin devrilmesi halinde ülkede kurulacak yönetimin, dine dayalı olup olmayacağını sorulması üzerine Şükfa, yeni düzende, dine referans veren düzenlemelerin yer alabileceğini, ancak temelde herkesi kucaklayan adalet, özgürlük ve eşitlik ilkelerine göre bir yönetim hedeflediklerini söyledi. Şükfa, Türkiye tecrübesinin bütün Suriye halkının beğenisini kazandığını söyledi.

İRAN VE İSRAL ESAD REJİMİNE DESTEK VERİYOR

İran'ın Suriye'de yaşanan olaylara müdahalesinin olup olmadığı şeklindeki soru üzerine Tayfur "İran, Hizbullah ve Irak'tan bazı unsurlar, maalesef Suriye'deki zalim rejimi destekliyor. İran, Suriye rejimine teknik ve insan desteği sağlıyor. Hizbullah da öyle" dedi.

Aynı soruya yanıt veren Şükfa ise "İran ile ABD'nin ilişkisi iki yönlüdür. İki ülke basın önünde düşman gibidirler, ama Afganistan ve Irak'ın işgali sürecinde gördük ki aslında masa altında iş birliği de yapmaktadırlar" şeklinde konuştu.

Tayfur, Beşar Esad'ın işadamı dayısı Rami Makluf'un "İsrail'in güvenliği, Suriye'nin güvenliğinden geçer" şeklinde bir açıklama yaptığını hatırlatarak, İsrail'in de Suriye'deki devrimde aslında Esad rejiminden yana olduğunu söyledi.

DEVİRİM DIŞI DESTEKLİ DEĞİL

Suriye'de rejime karşı ayaklanan güçlerin, dış destek aldıkları yönündeki spekülasyonlar ile ilgili olarak da Muhammed Faruk Tayfur, "Suriye, jeopolitik konumu dolayısıyla uzun yıllardır bir çatışma alanı olmuştur. Ancak, devrimin dış destekli olduğu doğru değildir. Burada 40 yıl iktidarda kalan zalim bir aileden söz ediyoruz.

Basın, Suriye'de sadece buz dağının ucunu gösteriyor. 4 bin ölüden söz ediliyor. Halbu ki ölü sayısı, 10 binden fazladır. 15 binden fazla insan kayıptır. Suriye'de 100 bin siyasi tutuklu vardır. İnsanların, ABD'den veya başka bir yerden para alarak canlarını

ortaya koyduklarını ileri sürmek saçmadır, doğru değildir" dedi.

KÜRTLERE DE SOSYAL HAKLAR VERİLECEK
Suriye'de Esad sonrasında kurmayı hedefledikleri yeni yönetimin, ülkedeki PKK unsurlarını Türkiye'ye iade edip etmeyeceğinin sorulması üzerine Tayfur, amaçlarının, demokratik ve dışa açık bir Suriye kurmak olduğunu, Türk Dışişleri Bakanı Ahmet Davutoğlu'nun tabiriyle, "sıfır problemlili bir Suriye" hedeflediklerini söyledi. Tayfur, "Aramızı bozmaya dönük faaliyetlere izin vermeyeceğiz" dedi.

Tayfur, Suriye'de Kürtler'in de varlığına dikkati çekerken, "Biz yönetime geldiğimizde, Kürtler'e, Suriye'nin birliği için sosyal ve kültürel haklarını verecek bir açılıma gideceğiz" dedi.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25298180/>

• Arap Birliği'nden Esad'a 3 gün süre

Açıklamada, "yolun sonuna gelinmek üzere" ifadesi kullanıldı.



ŞAM - Fas'ta biraraya gelen Arap Birliği dışişleri bakanları, Beşşar Esad yönetimine akan kanın durdurulması için 3 gün süre tanıdı.

Dönem başkanı Katar Başbakanı ve Dışişleri Bakanı Hamad bin Casım, Şam yönetiminin onay vermesi durumunda birliğin ülkeye 3 gün içinde gözlemci göndermeye hazır olduğunu da söyledi.

Bu konudaki teklifin Suriye'ye iletileceğini duyuran Casım, talebe onay verilmesini istedi.

Katar Dışişleri Bakanı, Arap Birliği'nin Suriye'ye yönelik diplomatik çabalarında "yolun sonuna gelmek üzere olduğu" değerlendirmesinde de bulunurken, Suriye'ye ilk başta 30 ila 50 gözlemcinin gönderileceği ve başka Müslüman ülkelerden yardım istenebileceği kaydediliyor.

Bu arada, Birlik'e üye ülkelerin ekonomi bakanlarından Suriye'ye uygulanacak olası ekonomik yaptırımlarla ilgili bir taslak hazırlamaları ve bir sonraki toplantıda konuyla ilgili önerilerini sunmaları istendi.

ÜYELİĞİ ASKIYA ALINDI

Öte yandan, Suriye'nin geçen cumartesi Arap Birliği'nin Kahire'deki genel merkezinde üyeliğinin askıya alınması kararı bugünkü toplantıda teyit edildi. Arap Birliği'nin bu kararının, şaşırtıcı şekilde sert ve alışılmadık bir hareket olduğu yorumları yapılıyor.

FAS'A DA SALDIRILDI!

Bu arada Arap Birliği'nin toplandığı Şam'daki Fas Büyükelçiliği'ne saldırdığı bildirildi. Fas'ın Şam Büyükelçisi Muhammed Hassasi, göstericilerin büyükelçiliğin önünde gösteri yaptıktan sonra binaya taş ve yumurta fırlattığını belirtti.

100-150 göstericinin binanın önündeki bayrağı indirdiklerini söyleyen Büyükelçi, Fas'ın bu saldırıyı kınadığını ifade etti.

Bu arada, bir grup rejim yanlısının öğleden sonra Suudi Arabistan ve Katar büyükelçiliklerinin önünde gösteri düzenlediği, grubun daha sonra Birleşik Arap Emirlikleri Büyükelçiliği'ne saldırdığı bildirildi.

BÜYÜKELÇİLİK KONUTA TAŞINDI

Öte yandan, Türkiye'nin Şam Büyükelçiliği personeli, büyükelçilik konutuna taşındı.

Artık çalışma ofisi olarak haftasonu saldırıya uğrayan büyükelçilik binası değil büyükelçinin konutu kullanılacak. Diplomatik kaynaklar güvenlik gerekçesiyle böyle bir kararın alındığını belirtti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297865/>

- **Fransa Şam büyükelçisini geri çağırdı**

Fransa, Suriye'de Esad yönetiminin göstericilere yönelik şiddet kullanmaya devam etmesi üzerine Şam'daki büyükelçisini geri çağırdı.

Fransa Dışişleri Bakanı Alain Juppe, mecliste yaptığı konuşmada, Suriye'deki yeni şiddet eylemleri nedeniyle Fransa'nın Suriye'nin Halep ve Lazkiye kentlerindeki konsoloslukları ile kültür merkezlerinin kapatılmasına, Fransa'nın Şam Büyükelçininin Paris'e çağrılmasına karar verildiğini belirtti.

Şam'daki rejimi otistik olarak tanımlayan ve Esad yönetiminin çevresindeki çemberin daraldığını öne süren Juppe, Suriye halkına mücadelelerinde destek olmaya devam edeceklerini ifade etti.

FRANSIZ ELÇİLİĞİNE DE SALDIRILMIŞTI

Geçtiğimiz hafta Arap Birliği'nin Suriye'nin üyeliğini askıya alması sonrasında Şam ve diğer kentlerde Türkiye, Fransa ve S. Arabistan elçiliklerine saldırı düzenlenmişti. Olaylarda bu ülkelerin bayrakları da yakılmıştı.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297829/>

- **'Suriye'de şiddetin bedeli yalnızlaşmadır'**

Fas'ta Türk-Arap İşbirliği Forumu'nda konuşan Dışişleri Bakanı Ahmet Davutoğlu, Suriye Devlet Başkanı Beşşar Esad'ın muhaliflere şiddet uygulamasının maliyetinin Arap dünyasında yalnızlaşması olduğunu söyledi.

Türk-Arap İşbirliği Forumu Dışişleri Bakanları dördüncü toplantısı Fas'ın başkenti Rabat'ta başladı.

Toplantıda Türkiye'yi temsil eden Dışişleri Bakanı Ahmet Davutoğlu, Esad rejiminin verdiği sözü yerine getirmeyerek, muhaliflere karşı şiddet kullanmaya devam ettiğini söyledi. Davutoğlu, "Suriye rejimi şiddet uygulamanın bedelini Arap dünyasında yalnızlaşarak ödüyor" şeklinde konuştu.

Dışişleri Bakanı Davutoğlu, Esad rejiminin, Arap Birliği'yle 2 Kasım'da üzerinde mutabık kaldığı anlaşmanın şartlarını yerine getirmediğini de hatırlatarak, "Son şansını iyi kullanamadığını" yineledi.

'CAN KAYIPLARINDAN KAYGILIYIZ'

Geçtiğimiz mart ayından bu yana devam eden halk hareketlerinde can kayıplarının endişe verici boyutlara ulaştığı Suriye'deki gelişmeler karşısında Arap Birliği'nin kararlılıkla harekete geçmiş olmasının memnuniyet verici olduğunu belirten Davutoğlu, "Ancak, Arap Birliği'nin tüm iyi niyetiyle 2 Kasım günü Suriye Yönetimi ile vardığı mutabakata karşın Suriye Yönetimi'nin bu mutabakat uyarınca üstlendiği taahhütleri yerine getirmemesi ve bu ülkedeki can kayıplarının sürmesi, bizi çok ciddi şekilde kaygılandırmaktadır. Esasen Suriye Yönetimi, bize de Ağustos ayında benzer taahhütlerde bulunmuş, ancak bu taahhütleri yerine getirmemiştir ve can kayıpları devam etmiştir" şeklinde konuştu.

'ESAD YALNIZLIĞA MAHKUM EDİLDİ'

Arap Birliği'nin 12 Kasım günü Suriye hakkında almış olduğu kararın, bu ülkedeki durumun vahametini ortaya koyan, zamanlı ve sağlıklı bir adım olduğunu

söyleyen Davutoğlu, "Suriye Yönetimi'nin Arap Birliği'ne verdiği taahhütleri yerine getirmemesinin maliyeti, Arap Dünyası içinde de yalnızlığa mahkum edilmiş olmasıdır" dedi.

SURİYE TOPLANTIYA KATILMIYOR

Yarım günlük toplantı, yapılacak oturumların ardından bugün öğle saatlerinde düzenlenecek basın toplantısıyla sona erecek.

Toplantıya son gelişmelerden ötürü Suriye katılmıyor. Dolayısıyla Suriye'nin toplantıdaki koltuğu boş kaldı.

TÜRK-ARAP İŞBİRLİĞİ TOPLANTISI 2007'DE BAŞLAMIŞTI

Türkiye ile Arap Birliği arasında 2007 yılında imzalanan çerçeve anlaşması ile hayata geçirilen Türk-Arap İşbirliği Forumu, Türkiye ile Arap ülkeleri arasındaki ilişkileri çok çeşitli alanlarda geliştirmeyi amaçlıyor. Forumun bakanlar düzeyindeki ilk toplantısı 2008 yılında İstanbul'da, ikincisi 2009 yılının Aralık ayında Şam'da, üçüncüsü ise 2010'da yine İstanbul'da düzenlenmişti.

ORTAK BİLDİRİ YAYINLANACAK

Rabat toplantısında 2012-2015 dönemi için ilişkilerin geliştirilmesine yönelik olarak yeni stratejiler belirlenmesi, bu çerçevede toplantı sonunda bir eylem planı ve ortak bildiri açıklanması bekleniyor.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297784/>

- **Uluslararası Heyet Hama'yı Ziyaret Etti**

HAMA – Çin Halk Cumhuriyeti, Rusya, İspanya, Almanya ve Küba'dan gelen 5 heyet bugün, silahlı terör gruplarının hain eylemleri sonucu kentte zarar gören kamusal ve özel binaları ziyaret etti.

Subay Orduevi ve Adalet Sarayı ile birlikte heyet üyeleri, kışkırtıcı medya kanallarının “ordu tarafından bombardımana tabi tutulduğu ve yıkıldığı” iddiasına maruz kalan bazı özel hastaneleri ziyaret ederek, iddiaların aksine hastanelerin hala ayakta ve herhangi bir zarara maruz kalmamış olduğunu gördü.

Heyet, adalet sarayında Başsavcı İsmail Şerife de ile bir araya geldi. Görüşmede Başsavcı Şerife, kantin hala birtakım bölgelerde silahlı eylemlere tanık olduğunu dile getirerek, silahlı grupların eylemlerinin kışkırtma ve fitne kanallarının

yayınlarına paralel olarak gerçekleştirildiğine dikkat çekti.

Kışkırtma kanallarının provokasyonu ile asayiş koruma güçlerine ve askerlere saldırılar düzenlendiğine işaret eden Başsavcı İsmail, aynı zamanda masum vatandaşların kaçırıldığını ve devlet memurlarının görevlerine gitmemesi için tehdit edildiğini, bu yolla silahlı grupların kaos yaratma çabası içinde olduklarını ifade etti.

İstikrarın sağlanması için asayiş koruma güçlerinin elinden gelen çabayı sarf ettiğini dile getiren Başsavcı, silahlı terör gruplarının kentteki eylemleri esnasında, adalet sarayından vatandaşlara ait 1 Milyar SL değerinde para ve emanet çaldıklarını belirtti.

Hırsızlık ve sabotaj eylemine maruz kalan adalet sarayının bazı bölümlerinde heyete eşlik eden Başsavcı, süratle yürütülen onarım ve tamirat işlerine işaret ederek, vatandaşların davalarının en kısa sürede çözülmesi için alınmakta olan icraatlar konusunda bilgi verdi.

Başsavcı İsmail, heyetten tanık oldukları hakikatleri ülkelerindeki kamuoyuna aktarmaları çağrısında bulundu.

Çinli heyetin temsilcisi yaptığı açıklamada Çin halkının Suriye'deki gelişmeleri endişeyle izlediğini dile getirerek, heyetin Suriye'ye, özellikle Hama'ya gerçekleştirdiği ziyaretin sahtecilik veya yalan olmadan gerçekleri yerinde inceleme amacı taşıdığını kaydetti.

Kentin maruz kaldığı eylemleri Suriye Televizyonu'ndan takip ettiklerine işaret eden heyet temsilcisi, gözleriyle gördüklerini izledikleri diğer kanallarla karşılaştırdıklarında, olayların nasıl gerçekdışı ve abartılacak şekilde nakledildiğini idrak ettiklerini vurguladı.

Diğer taraftan Kübalı heyetin temsilcisi de, "Küba'da elimizde tamamıyla farklı bir izlenim söz konusu idi. Hükümete bağlı birçok binanın nasıl yakılıp harabeye dönüştürüldüğünü burada, yerinde inceledikten sonra elimizde uluslar arası medyanın naklettiğinden tamamen farklı bir gerçeğin söz konusu olduğunu gördük" şeklinde konuştu.

Heyet üyeleri daha sonra Hama Valisi Enes el-Naim ile bir araya geldi. Hama Valisi heyet üyelerine kentin tanık olduğu olayların içyüzünü gözler önüne seren görüntülerin yer aldığı CD'lerin yanı sıra Hama'yı tarihi ve turistik olarak tanıtan broşürler verdi.

<http://sana.sy/tur/339/2011/11/17/382369.htm>

- **International pressure mounts on Syria**

Arab and European countries circulate UN resolution condemning rights violations, as many more killed in violence.



Russia's FM Lavrov has described the violence in Syria as "quite similar to a true civil war" [Reuters]

Diplomatic pressure on the Syrian government has escalated as a UN resolution that would condemn the country's human rights violations has

received support from several Arab nations.

In a growing sign of regional opposition to President Bashar al-Assad's crackdown on democracy protests, a draft resolution circulated by European countries to the General Assembly's human rights committee on Thursday was backed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Morocco.

The European and arab co-sponsors decided to press for the resolution after the 22-member Arab League suspended Damascus on Wednesday over the crackdown and threatened economic sanctions if the government continued to violate an Arab-brokered peace plan. It gave Assad's government three days to halt the violence, which the UN estimates has killed more than 3,500 people, and accept an observer mission.

At least 22 people, including 18 civilians and four defected soldiers, were killed on Thursday, bringing the two-day toll to 49 dead, Syrian activists said.

Mark Lyall Grant, the British ambassador to the UN, said the draft resolution was the result of close consultations with the

Arab League, and he urged the human rights committee to show "that the UN will not allow atrocities in Syria to go unchallenged."

If the resolution is approved by the human rights committee, it is virtually certain to be adopted by the 193-member General Assembly. While resolutions approved by the assembly are not legally binding, they do reflect world opinion.

"True civil war"

Amid reports of violence on Thursday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters that the West and the Arab League should not just single out President Assad over the violence, but also urge restraint from the opposition.

"Today I saw a television report about some new so-called rebel Free Syrian Army organising an attack on the government building, on the building belonging to Syria's armed forces," he told reporters.

"This was quite similar to a true civil war."

Russia and China last month vetoed a council resolution condemning the deadly crackdown on the eight-month-old uprising which the UN says has caused at least 3,500 deaths.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticised the international community on Thursday for remaining indifferent to the events in Syria because the country is not rich in oil.

"The silence and indifference of those who spoke out against Libya to the massacres in Syria create irreparable wounds on the human conscience," Erdogan said at an international energy conference in Istanbul.

Erdogan's comments came just after the leader of Syria's exiled Muslim Brotherhood said that his compatriots would accept Turkish "intervention" in the country to resolve months of bloody unrest.

"The Syrian people would accept intervention coming from Turkey, rather than from the West, if its goal was to protect the people," Mohammad Riad

Shakfa, Syria's Muslim Brotherhood leader, said in Istanbul.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011111713626658954.html>

7. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA / ARAP YARIMADASI VE BASRA KÖRFEZİ

- **Kuwait's ruler orders 'stricter' security**
Sheikh Sabah denounces protests as a threat to "security and stability" after brief storming of parliament chamber.



Protesters entered the parliament chamber on Wednesday, to protest against alleged high-level corruption [Reuters]

Kuwait's ruler has ordered authorities to tighten security measures in the Gulf Arab state and conduct possible arrests after parliament was stormed by anti-government protesters angered by high-level corruption allegations.

The steps by the emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed Al Sabah, underscore the deepening political tensions in the oil-producing country.

The rifts in oil-rich Kuwait began before the Arab Spring protests, but opposition factions could be further emboldened by the push for political changes around the region.

Tension has been building over the past three months after it was alleged that about 16 MPs in the 50-member parliament received about \$350m in bribes.

Critics of Kuwait's ruling family claim it turns a blind eye to allegations of widespread corruption and uses security forces to crush dissenting voices.

Dozens of protesters jumped over police barricades on Wednesday and briefly entered the parliament chamber.

This happened amid attempts by opposition politicians to bring the prime minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad Al Sabah, 71, a senior member of the ruling family, for questioning over

claims that government officials transferred state funds to accounts outside the country.

Kuwait's important affairs are run by the ruling family, but it has one of the region's most politically active parliaments.

'Chaotic behaviour'

Commenting after an emergency government meeting on Thursday, Ali Fahad al-Rashid, a government spokesman, quoted Sheikh Sabah as denouncing the parliament protest as threatening the country's "security and stability" and calling for "stricter measures to confront this chaotic behaviour".

Al-Rashid said the interior ministry and other security forces were ordered to take "all necessary measures to combat any actions that might beset the country's security".

The steps could include legal action against the protesters who entered parliament and possible crackdowns on opposition media for "any instigation", according to the official Kuwait News Agency.

The interior ministry said five members of the security services were injured during the scuffles in parliament. The ministry did not elaborate, and there was no word on whether protesters were injured or detained.

In Washington, Mark Toner, the state department spokesman, praised Kuwait for its "political freedom and co-operation".

He said it has "a vibrant civil society and an open press environment. So, we would just ask that any peaceful protests be respected".

The protesters had marched to Sheikh Nasser's home to demand his resignation, an opposition MP said, but police used batons to prevent them.

"Now, we have entered the house of the people," Mussallam al-Barrak, who led the protest along with several other politicians and youth activists, said.

They were also calling for the dissolution of parliament over alleged corruption. Some activists said they will

continue to camp outside parliament until Sheikh Nasser is sacked.

The opposition has been leading a campaign to remove him, accusing him of failing to run the wealthy nation and fight corruption, which has become widespread.

Fahad al-Khanna, a former member of parliament, told Al Jazeera: "We have already been out in the streets protesting peacefully, we will not abandon our country to a bunch of corrupt thieves, we are urgently calling for an early parliamentary election in the country."

Kuwait is a longtime Western ally, which could host thousands more US forces under a Pentagon-drafted plan to boost troop strength in the Gulf after the US withdraws from Iraq.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011111834322467668.html>

- **'Al-Qaeda-linked' fighters killed in Yemen**

An Iranian, Pakistani and two Somalis among fighters killed in Zinjibar during shelling by army, security official says.



Security has collapsed across much of Yemen as a result of the uprising against President Ali Abdullah Saleh [EPA]

Yemeni troops have killed seven al-Qaeda-linked fighters including an Iranian, a Pakistani and two Somali nationals, in the latest fighting in a turbulent southern province, a security official has said.

The official said on Wednesday that the seven people were killed when the army shelled the headquarters of the local government and the offices of the internal security agency in Zinjibar, provincial capital of Abyan.

The security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to reporters, said the latest violence in Zinjibar began late on Tuesday and continued through Wednesday.

For more on Yemen, visit our Spotlight page

The fighting is part of the army's campaign to regain control of Zinjibar and other areas in the south that have fallen into the hands of the fighters since March.

The fighting has forced at least 100,000 residents to flee Abyan province and find refuge in the nearby port city of Aden.

Zinjibar has been held by the fighters since May.

Security has collapsed across much of Yemen as a result of the uprising against President Ali Abdullah Saleh, allowing fighters to take advantage of the turmoil to expand their reach beyond Yemen's remote hinterlands.

Critics accuse Saleh, Yemen's leader of 33 years, of turning a blind eye to the growing strength of the armed groups to support his argument that al-Qaeda would take control of the Arab nation if he were to leave office.

The US has supported Yemen's military in the south and carried out its own strikes against al-Qaeda leaders there, most

notably the September 30 killing of al-Qaeda's US-born cleric, Anwar al-Awlaki.

Washington views Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemeni branch of the network is known, as one of its most dangerous enemies.

It blames it for a string of attempted attacks on US soil and elsewhere.

Sanaa march

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of people marched in Sanaa on Wednesday, inspired by Arab League discussions to suspend Syria from the bloc.

The anti-government protesters urged the regional grouping to do the same with Yemen as they marched from Change Square, the epicentre of anti-government demonstrations, towards Al-Hasaba, north of the capital, through various neighbourhoods, including one that houses the presidential compound.

"Arab League, we demand the freezing of [Yemeni] membership," shouted the protesters.

"No immunity for the killer," they chanted, in reference to a Gulf plan under which Saleh would step down in return for immunity from prosecution for himself and his family.

Witnesses said troops loyal to Saleh fired into the air to disperse the crowd but no injuries were reported.

Activists say at least 500 protesters have been killed and thousands more wounded since the uprising began in February.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/20111116161332395798.html>

8. AFGHANISTAN - PAKISTAN / AFGANİSTAN - PAKİSTAN

• **Several killed in 'drone strike' in Pakistan**

Third suspected US attack in as many days comes despite continued poor relations between nations after bin Laden raid.



The Pakistani government is believed to quietly assent to drone strikes despite their huge unpopularity [AFP]

A suspected US drone strike on a compound in northwest Pakistan has killed at least nine people, Pakistani intelligence officials have said.

The attack on Thursday, in which four missiles were fired at a compound in the North Waziristan district on the Afghan border, is the third such strike in as many days.

In the nearby Orakzai agency, Pakistani security forces attacked two separate bases for anti-government fighters, killing at least 30 suspected fighters, a Pakistani army official told Al Jazeera. Two security personnel were wounded.

The Pakistani intelligence officials said unmanned US aircraft fired four missiles into a building in the Razmak area of

North Waziristan, 60km south of the region's main town, Miranshah.

The Taliban and other armed groups use the rugged tribal lands on the border as their base.

North Waziristan is the most notorious of Pakistan's seven semi-autonomous tribal districts and has been a major focus of US pressure on the Islamabad government to take sterner action against Afghan fighters.

Clinton demand

Washington refuses to discuss drone strikes publicly, but the programme has dramatically increased as the Obama administration looks to withdraw all foreign combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

Thursday's strike was the 64th reported in Pakistan's tribal belt so far this year, according to an AFP tally.

The Pakistani government is understood to assent to the programme despite popular opposition at home, where anti-Americanism is frequently exploited by

nationalist politicians and the conservative religious right.

Pakistan-US ties deteriorated sharply this year over a unilateral US raid that killed Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader, in May and over accusations that Pakistani intelligence was involved in a September siege of the US embassy in Kabul.

At talks in Islamabad last month, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on Pakistan to take action within "days and weeks" on dismantling havens for Afghan fighters and encouraging the Taliban into peace talks.

Thursday's strike came one day after US missiles allegedly destroyed a Pakistani Taliban base in South Waziristan, killing up to 18 fighters, including possible members of al-Qaeda, in the deadliest such reported strike in three months.

Also on Wednesday, three suicide bombers blew themselves up in their car on the sea front in Pakistan's largest city of Karachi, killing two policemen, when they were intercepted.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2011/11/20111117131446380853.html>

- **Pakistan's US ambassador 'offers to resign'**

Hussain Haqqani denies asking for US help on behalf of Pakistan president to stop possible coup by army.

Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, Hussain Haqqani, has offered to resign after being summoned to Islamabad to explain himself over reports that he sought Washington's help against the Pakistani army on behalf of President Asif Ali Zardari.

Haqqani, a close aide of Zardari, has played a key role in helping Pakistan's civilian government navigate turbulent relations with the US, which nose-dived after the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in May.

Local media reports in Pakistan on Thursday implicated Haqqani in a memo allegedly sent from Zardari to Admiral Mike Mullen, then the top military officer in the US, that sought to curtail Pakistan's military after it was humiliated by the bin Laden killing.

Zardari reportedly feared that the military might seize power as one way to limit the hugely damaging fallout in Pakistan after US special forces killed bin Laden in the garrison city of Abbottabad on May 2.

In remarks to CNN on Wednesday, Haqqani denied writing the memo but confirmed he had offered to resign if it would end "the vilification against the democratic government of Pakistan".

"No memo of the kind being discussed in the media was drafted or delivered by me," Haqqani said. "I have not been named so far as having done anything wrong by anyone except through innuendo."

He said he was being targeted by part of ongoing "smear campaigns".

Rehman Malik, the Pakistani interior minister, accused the media of hounding Zardari over the memo, the existence of which was revealed in an op-ed last month by US businessman Mansoor Ijaz. Malik said that Haqqani would explain his role.

"Yes, he [Haqqani] had been summoned by the president," Malik told reporters outside parliament in Islamabad.

"He has already offered his resignation to the president, saying hype has been created and he was ready to resign in the national interest. If he has done something beyond his mandate, he can come and explain it."

Al Jazeera's Kamal Hyder, reporting from Islamabad, said that there was "an understanding that the memo was sanctioned with the highest level of the political government."

Writing in the UK's Financial Times on October 10, Ijaz said a "senior Pakistani diplomat" telephoned him in May, saying that Zardari wanted to get a message to the White House bypassing Pakistan's military and intelligence chiefs.

"The president feared a military takeover was imminent" and "needed an American fist on his army chief's desk to end any misguided notions of a coup, and fast," said the article published on the opinion pages.

Ijaz said a memo was delivered to Mullen on May 10 and that it suggested a "new national security team" in Pakistan would end troublesome relations between Pakistani intelligence and Afghan fighters, namely the Taliban and its Haqqani faction.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2011/11/20111117114152251991.html>

**This media summary is prepared by ORSAM Middle East Research Assistants Nebahat Tanrıverdi O and Sercan Doğan. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.*

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