

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## 'Phony charges' of violating UN resolution rejected



**PRESS TV** - The permanent mission of Iran to the UN has categorically rejected the "absurd" and "unfounded" claims raised by the US that Tehran has sold drones to Russia for use in the Ukraine war.

The Iranian UN mission, in two identical letters addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and rotating President of the Security Council Ferit Hoxha, said Washington's cynical attempt to establish an illusory link between the alleged use of drones in the Ukraine conflict and the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) to accuse Tehran of violating the resolution is "misleading and entirely unfounded."

## Anti-Iran groups accept KRG's call for disarmament: Report

**TASNIM** - An informed source said secessionist anti-Iranian groups in northern Iraq have agreed to lay down their arms and leave the areas along the common border between Iran and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The informed political source told Tasnim news agency on Friday that the KRG has practically started the activities to draw the opposition parties away from the Iranian border, denying rumors that the parties have declined to accept the provision of a security agreement between Iraq and Iran, or have plans to take up the option of military action.

## Fresh sanctions condemned

**PRESS TV** - Iran strongly condemned the US and its allies for imposing a slew of fresh sanctions against the country over the defense of its nation's security in the face of Western-backed riots that spread throughout the country last year. On Friday, the US, the UK, and the EU sanctioned dozens of Iranian individuals and entities, which they accused of either suppression or misrepresentation of last year's unrest. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani denounced the sanctions as "unconstructive behavior" which was not in line with the Western countries' own interests.

## Iran can retaliate against US theft of its oil on 'larger scale': Defense minister



Iran's defense minister rebuked the US government's seizure of one million barrels of Iranian crude, warning that the Islamic Republic is fully capable of retaliating "on a larger scale" in due time.

The US Department of Justice confirmed on September 8 that it had seized the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker carrying Iranian oil, named Suez Rajan, and its cargo of 980,000 barrels of crude oil off the coast of Texas.

The department claimed that

Suez Rajan was in April transporting Iranian oil to China in violation of Washington's sanctions against Tehran. It also said the US government had obtained a warrant earlier this year for its seizure.

"This is an act of theft by the United States, which is not acceptable across the world whatsoever," Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani stated.

Speaking with ISNA, Ashtiani warned that if Washington goes ahead with stealing the Iranian

oil cargo, "we will definitely retaliate, and we can react on a larger scale."

"But for now, we have limited our action to the discussions we are engaged in," he said, stressing that Iran expects the Americans to stop such actions.

"We are located in a strategic and very important region. The energy transmission lines pass through this region, and we have control over these lines. Therefore, it is possible for us to take countermeasures against the US on a large

er scale."

For months, American oil firms had resisted the temptation of touching the 800,000-barrel tanker for fear of Iranian retaliation in the Persian Gulf waters. Still, the US Navy later unloaded the tanker of stolen Iranian oil worth around \$56 million off the Texas port, brushing off warnings from the Islamic Republic.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani described the US move at the time as contradictory and said Tehran had

summoned the Swiss ambassador to the ministry in this regard.

Under the guise of "sanctions-enforcement operations," the United States has in recent years seized foreign vessels carrying Iranian oil across the world.

Back in February 2021, the Americans seized a tanker carrying Iranian oil off the coast of the Emirati city of Fujairah and sold more than a million barrels of oil confiscated from it for \$110 million, or \$55 a barrel.

## Raeisi meets families of security forces killed during last year's unrest

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi met with the families of security forces killed during mass protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini last year.

Raeisi's meetings were held during a visit to the northeastern city of Mashhad on Thursday and Friday, ahead of the Sept. 16 anniversary of Amini's death, which caused months of protests across the

country.

"Raeisi met today with the families of security defenders," the official IRNA said.

His meetings included the families of Danial Rezazadeh and Hossein Zeinalzadeh, according to Tasnim news agency.

Rezazadeh and Zeinalzadeh - members of the Basij forces - were killed on November 17.

Their deaths were blamed on Majidreza Rahnavard, one of seven people Iran's judiciary later executed over their links to the protests.

During a meeting on Thursday, Raeisi welcomed "the shameful failure of the enemy's project aimed at destabilizing" Iran, according to a statement issued by the Office of the President.



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## Iran sends humanitarian aid to flood-hit Libya

## National Desk

The Iranian Red Crescent Society said on Friday that it has sent 40 tons of humanitarian aid to flood-stricken Libya to help the victims.

The head of the Iranian organization, Pir-Hossein Kolivand, said the aid package includes tents, blankets, mats, medicine, and foodstuffs, according to Mehr news agency.

He also said that three rescue teams have been dispatched to the African country, which hit by devastating floods.

According to the Libyan Red Crescent, at least 11,300 people have been killed so far and another 10,000 people are feared missing after a storm in the Mediterranean caused dams to burst - washing entire coastal neighborhoods out to sea.

Storm Daniel pounded the North African country last Sunday night, unleashing heavy rainfall that caused flash flooding. But the major destruction would come hours later, when two dams located on



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the Wadi Derna River burst, creating a wall of water that destroyed everything in its path. The greatest devastation was seen in the port city of Derna, which is home to 90,000 people.

Derna's mayor Abdel-Moneim al-Ghaithi said the death toll would likely climb to 20,000 considering the devastation of the city. Another 170 people reportedly died in neighboring coastal cities.

Before the devastating storm struck the east of Libya, the area was already host to more than 46,000 internally displaced people as a result of the country's decades-long conflict.

## US's interaction with Syria terrorists sparks regional instability concerns



By Syed Ali Hassan

Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The Syrian government has strongly condemned the recent visit of a US delegation to northern Syria, calling it a destabilizing move for the region. The delegation, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ethan A. Goldrich, visited areas controlled by Western-backed anti-Damascus armed groups this month.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry decried the visit as illegal and a clear infringement on Syria's sovereignty, also citing violations of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions. Notably, some Kurdish regions in northern Syria are under the sway of US-supported separatist militias, such as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which receive material and financial backing from various countries, including the United States.

The US military occupies roughly half of Dayr al-Zawr Province, with Syrian government forces in control of the other half. The US maintains influence over oil-rich Syrian territories through the SDF. President Biden's statement that the US military has not fully withdrawn from these areas contradicts these ongoing operations. Moreover, the SDF is actively working toward establishing an independent state in Syria, as well as in Kurdish-majority areas in Turkey. The Syrian government accuses the United

States of using the SDF to fuel instability in the region. The SDF, created in 2015 with US support, includes Kurdish separatists and other ethnocentric factions that resist Arab and Turkish governance.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry said that the visit of a senior US official is not merely an intrusion into internal affairs but also an indication of the United States' hostile intentions toward Damascus, warning of severe consequences.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Goldrich said that the visit aimed to "discuss the way forward in Syria" and to "support the Syrian people".

The visit is expected to further strain the already tenuous relations between the US and Syria, which have been at odds since the outset of the war in the country in 2011.

In addition to Syria, the Arab League has criticized the US delegation's visit, citing it as a violation of Syria's sovereignty and a refusal to support any actions that might destabilize the nation.

The timing of this visit is significant, given Syria's mounting international pressure, with calls from the United Nations for an end to violence and national reunification. While the exact repercussions of the visit remain uncertain, it is evident that it has stirred outrage from the Syrian government and the Arab League. Despite the US support for armed groups deemed terrorists by Syria, the United States has struggled to achieve its objectives in Syria, with the SDF, its primary ally, seemingly encouraged to foster instability in both Turkey and Syria, potentially reigniting conflict in the region.