

Arab League condemns Israeli seizure of Syrian territory



Cairo, December 14 (RHC)-- The Arab League has passed a resolution that condemns the Israeli occupation of the buffer zone inside Syria. On Friday, the 22-member bloc said Arab countries called on the UN Security Council to hold a session on Israel's practices against Syria.

The details were released by Egypt's Foreign Ministry which said the Arab League has held a meeting in Cairo to draft a unified Arab stance toward the regime's occupation of more Syrian land.

The bloc also called on the international community to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights.

Israel started its push to grab more Syrian land on Sunday after foreign-backed militants led by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) announced the fall of President Bashar al-Assad's government following a rapid two-week onslaught.

Israeli forces seized the so-called buffer zone, which separates the occupied Golan Heights from the rest of Syria, in violation of a 1974 disengagement agreement. The occupation forces have entered several towns in Quneitra, forcibly evacuating residents.

They occupied the summit of Jabal al-Shaykh which provides an observation point for areas in Syria and Lebanon. It rises to 9,232 feet (2,814 meters) and is the highest point on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Israeli troops have advanced beyond the so-called buffer zone toward Damascus, with the regime's warplanes conducting hundreds of aerial assaults on Syria.

The Israeli army launched hundreds of airstrikes against Syrian military bases, air defense stations, intelligence headquarters, and long- and short-range missile depots and unconventional weapon stockpiles across the Arab countries.

Israel has wiped out Syrian naval vessels, sea-to-sea missiles, helicopters and planes, including the entire fleet of MiG-29 fighter jets and stockpiles of ammunition in attacks on at least five air bases.

The regime said it was destroying any means by which militant groups in Syria could attack Israel. But according to analysts even before the Israeli strikes this week, Syria would have been unable to attack Israel with its existing military infrastructure effectively.

The Arab League resolution condemned the Israeli aggression as a "violation of the disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria in 1974."

It called on the international community to force Israel to abide by UN resolution 497 of 1981 and demanded Israel withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights.

Israeli war minister Israel Katz on Friday ordered Israeli troops to "prepare to remain" throughout the winter in Syria including the strategic Jabal al-Shaykh mountain which they occupied last week.

Katz said he had issued the order during an assessment the previous day with the Israeli army's chief of staff Herzi Halevi, and other officers.

[SOURCE: PRESS TV and NEWS AGENCIES]

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