

Sudan's Burhan dismisses sanctions threats, says Israel visits not political

Sat, 2022-02-12 21:09

KHARTOUM/CAIRO: Sudan's military leader General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan on Saturday dismissed Western threats of sanctions and said meetings between Sudanese and Israeli officials were part of security cooperation rather than political in nature.

Burhan led a military coup on Oct. 25 that ended a partnership between the army and civilian parties which was meant to lead to democratic elections, leading to months of protests as well as Western condemnation.

US officials have said they are looking into options to respond to the killing of at least 79 protesters, according to a toll by medics, and to moves to impede civilian-led government.

Speaking in an interview with Sudan's state-run TV aired late Saturday, Burhan said it is legitimate for Sudanese security and intelligence agencies to have ties and exchange visits with Israel.

He said exchange of intelligence has enabled Sudan to dismantle and arrest suspected militant groups in Sudan that "could have undermined the security of Sudan and the region."

He insisted his country's relations with Israel are not of a political nature, saying that no senior Sudanese official has yet made a visit to Israel. He did not elaborate.

Sudanese and Israeli officials exchanged unannounced visits in recent weeks. Most recently, a Sudanese security delegation visited Tel Aviv last week, following a visit by Israeli officials, including Mossad intelligence officers, to Khartoum in January.

Burhan also said Washington was receiving inaccurate information.

"Sanctions and the threat of them are not useful," he said.

Burhan said he took personal responsibility for investigations of protester deaths and that five or six were ongoing. But he added that there were suspicions of involvement by "outside groups," without elaborating.

The armed forces were committed to handing over power to an elected government or to an arrangement decided through "national consensus," he said, repeating a commitment to holding elections in mid-2023.

The military had met resistance committees that are leading the protest movement, and they agreed on many points, he said. In statements, resistance committees have rejected dialogue with the military.

Prior to the coup, the military had led steps to reach an agreement in late 2020 to normalize relations with Israel, a move also made by the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco.

Burhan said meetings between Israeli and Sudanese officials since the coup had not been high-level and only involved the security and intelligence apparatus.

"This is a legitimate matter for these agencies, and it is no secret that the information shared enabled us to catch several terrorist organizations

located inside Sudan,” he said.

Protesters have accused the military of bringing back loyalists of ousted President Omar Al-Bashir. This week, two prominent politicians involved in a committee to dismantle Bashir’s network were arrested.

In response, Burhan said officials appointed since the takeover were already part of civil service, and that the committee had diverged from its goals though he was not involved in the arrests.

The UN, the US and other Western government have pressured the military to end the crackdown on protesters and restore a civilian-led government to complete the country’s transition. Congress members have also called for sanctions on military leaders in Sudan.

US Assistant Secretary of State Molly Phee and the newly appointed US special envoy for the Horn of Africa visited Sudan last month and said they made clear to the generals that “the US “will consider measures to hold accountable those responsible for failure to move forward.”

In the interview, Buran pushed back against threats of punitive measure, saying that sanctions and threats of sanctions will not helpful.

(With Reuters and AP)



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Sudan rejects Western criticism of arrests as ‘blatant interference’ Sudan’s military rulers step up crackdown, arrest activists

[Bahrain confirms Israeli officer will be stationed in the country – state agency](#)

Author:

Reuters

ID:

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Fri, 2022-02-11 23:39

CAIRO: Bahrain's foreign ministry confirmed in a statement on Saturday that an Israeli officer will be stationed in the country, according to the state news agency.

The appointment will be related to the work of an unnamed international coalition of more than 34 countries, the report said.

Bahrain also said that the coalition's task includes securing freedom of navigation in the territorial waters of the region, protecting international trade and confronting piracy and terrorism.

Earlier media reports said Israel would send a naval officer to an official posting in Bahrain, the first time an Israeli military officer has been posted to an Arab country.



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[French president voices support for Egypt's regional development and anti-terror efforts](#)

Sat, 2022-02-12 01:08

LONDON: French President Emmanuel Macron said that his country remains committed to the continued enhancement of joint cooperation with Egypt in a number of fields, and to supporting Cairo's efforts to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development, and combat terrorism and extremist ideology in its region.

Macron said his country is proud of its strong relationship with Egypt, which has gained momentum in recent years through the many visits by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to France.

His comments came during a meeting with El-Sisi on the sidelines of the One Ocean Summit in the French port city of Brest on Friday, according to Bassam Rady, a spokesman for the Egyptian presidency.

El-Sisi said Cairo is in turn keen to develop ties with Paris in various fields, especially the transfer of expertise and the employment of French technological know-how in all types of development. He added that Egypt also hopes to maximize coordination and consultation with France on political, security, military and economic issues, and to help maintain security and stability in the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean and the African continent, especially under the current French presidency of the EU.

Rady said the two leaders also discussed a number of regional issues, including developments in Libya, where Macron said his country and the international community appreciates Egyptian efforts, led by El-Sisi, to preserve Libyan national institutions and promote a political solution to the crisis in the country.

They agreed on concerted joint efforts to help the Libyan people restore security and stability in their country, especially through the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign forces from Libyan territory, and the eradication of terrorism, the spokesman said.

Macron and El-Sisi also reviewed opportunities for cooperation ahead of Egypt's hosting of the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference, COP27, in Sharm El-Sheikh in November, given the prominent role they their countries play in environmental and climate issues, the spokesman said.

El-Sisi said the invitation for him to participate in the One Ocean Summit reflected the importance Egypt attaches to protecting the marine environment, as evidenced by the establishment of nature reserves and efforts to preserve biodiversity and reduce marine pollution.

The Egyptian president also held talks with European Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, and Tunisian Prime Minister Najla Bouden on the sidelines of the summit.

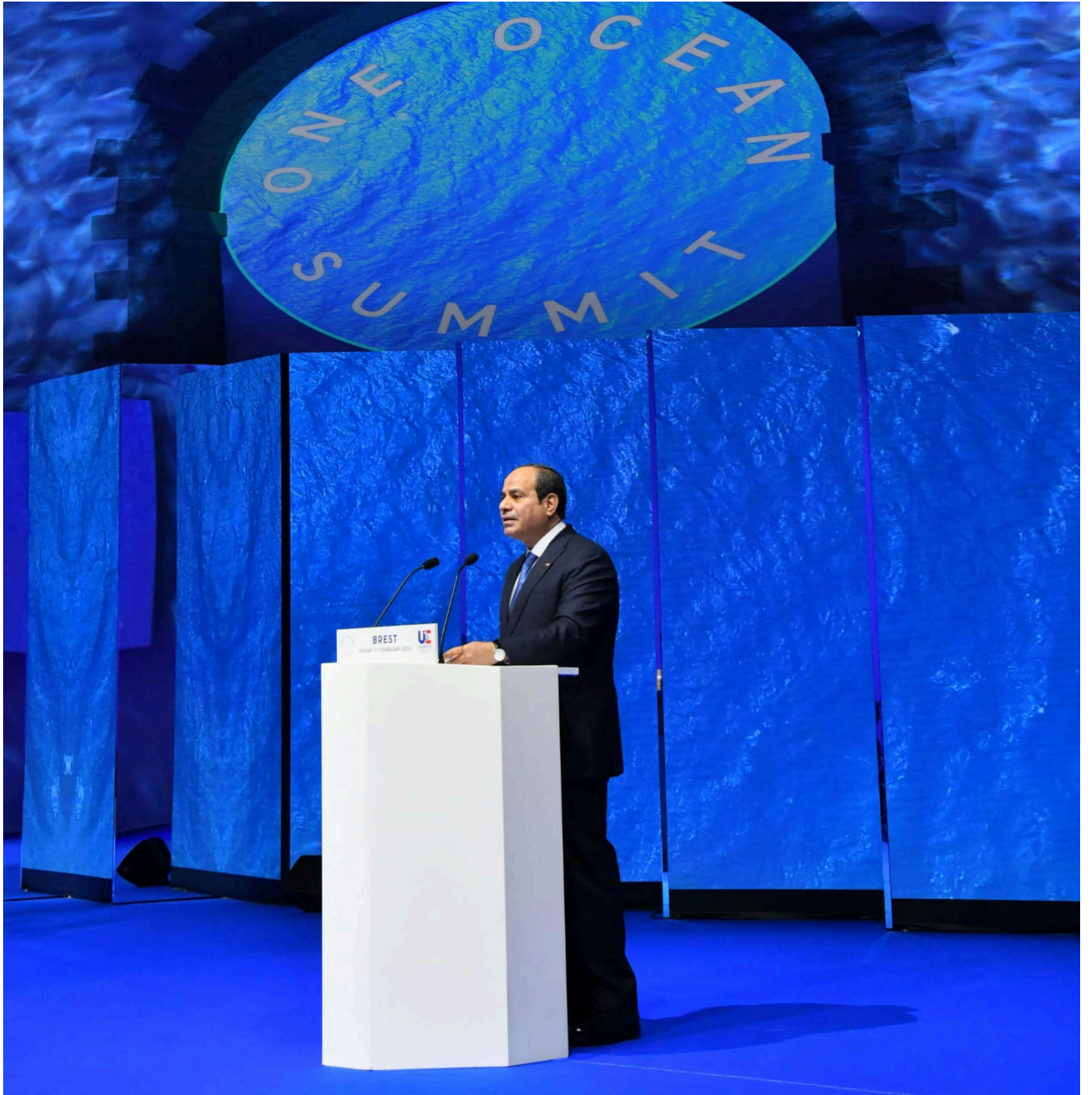














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In Egypt's Red Sea, corals fade as oceans warmEgypt seeks to advance cooperation with Algeria: El-Sisi

[Strikes target Houthi sites in Yemeni capital, Coalition says](#)

Author:

Arab News

ID:

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Sat, 2022-02-12 01:40

RIYADH: The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen has struck targets in

Sanaa, Al Ekhbariya reported early on Saturday.
The strikes came after Thursday's drone attack on Saudi Arabia's Abha Airport by the Iran-back Houthi militia.
The attack, which injured 12 people, has been widely condemned.
The coalition asked civilians not to gather around the targeted sites in the Yemeni capital.



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12 civilians injured in Houthi drone strike on Saudi Arabia's Abha airport
International organizations condemn Houthi attack on Saudi Arabia

[Prince William's United for Wildlife signs cooperation deal with Dubai Airports](#)

Author:

Sat, 2022-02-12 00:07

LONDON: Britain's Prince William, founder of United for Wildlife, was present for the signing of an agreement with Dubai Airports to prevent the illegal

trade in wildlife, during his historic visit to the UAE, state news agency WAM reported on Friday.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, said by signing the “Buckingham Palace Declaration” the international transit hub was committed to thwarting any operations aimed at the illegal trade in wildlife, which is a global issue that ranks among the top five global crimes for profit.

He said the Duke of Cambridge had always been keen to launch global initiatives aimed at preserving the natural environment and combating the illegal trade of wild animals.

And also to see this police car...! pic.twitter.com/BKh4Ss9ECc

– The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (@KensingtonRoyal) [February 11, 2022](#)

Griffiths also said Dubai’s location is a link to all parts of the world, and the emirate has a strategic position as a center for international trade, so strengthening cooperation between Dubai Airports, DP World and Dubai Customs will constitute a strong impetus in the fight against trafficking issues to eliminate the illegal movement of wildlife across borders.

He continued: “Dubai Airports will provide the necessary support and jointly coordinate with partners and relevant authorities from all over the world to share data, find and develop strategic solutions and set policies that contribute to addressing this international issue because of its critical importance.”

Meanwhile, Prince William attended the first-ever Earthshot Prize Innovation Showcase at the DP World Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai

Working together with [@EarthshotPrize](#) to inspire optimism & action to scale eco-innovations that will put our planet on a sustainable path and protect our world for generations to come.

Thank you [@DP_World](#) for hosting and for your continued support of our Finalists, & the Prize. pic.twitter.com/DM4kPjKGgv

– The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (@KensingtonRoyal) [February 10, 2022](#)

Prince William, was joined by Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed, chairman of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, CEO of Emirates Group and chairman of Dubai Airports, and Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World. He praised an announcement of a £1 million (\$1.355 million) investment in two Earthshot Prize finalists, designed to scale their work in the UAE and Middle East.

“The Earthshot mission is more than just a prize. It’s a global team effort to spark urgent optimism and game-changing innovation to transform our future. I’m inviting all of you to join the Earthshot team and support our

Finalists – the eco-innovators – to take their solutions to scale,” said Prince William.

Queen Rania of Jordan, who participated via video message, said: “Every sector has a role to play public, private, philanthropic, and the bottom line could not be clearer: If we work together, everybody wins.”

Inside the pavilion is the promotion of our advancements in innovation, space, and artificial intelligence.

It’s one of the largest, self-built spaces at the expo, creating a global collective message projecting unity.

pic.twitter.com/43mDAQ06Rq

– The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (@KensingtonRoyal) [February 10, 2022](#)

With the funds, the finalists will begin collaborative work on reef restoration in the region, including scoping for the first commercial land-based coral farm for reef restoration in the Middle East.

This investment will scale their innovative work creating panels that mimic natural habitats like rock pools and mangrove roots, which are fitted to coastal sea defenses to return marine life to coastal shorelines.

DP World’s commitment will fund the design and installation of the largest living seawall on the planet adapted to support the native marine life of the UAE and wider region.

“Our business is connected to the oceans and their protection is an important priority across all our operations as part of our sustainable business commitments evidenced by our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040,” said Bin Sulayem.





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Prince William focuses on conservation during first UAE trip Saudi crown prince and UK PM discuss relations