<u>Libya legislative vote rescheduled for</u> <u>January: parliament</u>

Tue, 2021-10-05 21:25

Libya's legislative elections have been postponed until January, the country's eastern-based parliament said on Tuesday, instead of being held on December 24 as planned.

"The election for members of the House of Representatives will take place 30 days after the presidential vote," still scheduled for December 24, parliamentary spokesman Abdullah Bliheg told a press conference.



Main category:

<u>Middle-East</u>

Tags:

Libya

<u>Libya elections</u>

Damning UN report lists 5 years of crimes against humanity in LibyaLibya's fate in the balance as UN-led peace efforts sputter

<u>Stitches represent scars in Beirut</u> blast survivor's art show

Author: Reuters ID: 1633451482344576500 Tue, 2021-10-05 19:34

BRUSSELS: Palestinian artist Majd Abdel Hamid, a survivor of the 2020 Beirut blast, has opened his first solo show in Brussels this month, with displays of embroidery and video installations to convey the passage of time. Born in Syria and now based in Beirut, 33-year-old visual artist Majd Abdel Hamid embroiders fabrics he collects and items he finds, from cushions to kitchen towels.

At times colorful and at other times just white on white, they are designed as an abstract depiction of time and the places he has been, touching on wars, political and economic crises and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's been like an acceleration of traumas. It's not even one trauma that you have. It's been quite challenging to process what has happened and how can you deal with it," Abdel Hamid told Reuters TV.

Abdel Hamid was injured in the explosion of ammonium nitrate stored at Beirut port in August 2020, with wooden fragments still stuck beneath a scar on his head. The embroidery stitches in his "A Stitch in Times" represent mental and physical scars.

The show at an exhibition space of the Fondation d'entreprise Hermes, at the back of the Hermes store in Brussels will be the first showing of all his work.

Abdel Hamid describes embroidery as a "timeless medium," a slow process of doing and undoing. One display piece, "Salt of the Earth," show threads suspended and crystallized by salt. Another shows him unthreading white bed sheets in his home.

"Embroidery is always used to celebrate the pride of a country, the pride of the family, it's about motifs. When you embroider raw reality, dramatic situations or violence, it creates tension," he said.



Main category: Middle-East

Egypt, Britain discuss travel conditions after removal from 'red list'

Tue, 2021-10-05 18:17

CAIRO: Egyptian Minister of Health and Population Hala Zayed has spoken with Gareth Bailey, the British Ambassador to Cairo, about enhancing travel cooperation between the two countries after Egypt was removed from the UK's "red list," a group of nations with stricter travel measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The meeting discussed different ways to meet the requirements for travellers going from Egypt to Britain, as those who have been vaccinated in Egypt are still required to self isolate on arrival.

They discussed the ongoing procedures of the British Department of Health and Social Care to expedite the approval of vaccination certificates from Egypt.

Zayed stressed the necessary health measures taken to facilitate the movement between Egypt and the UK, especially for the purposes of treatment and education, as well as tourism for citizens from both countries.

The minister also discussed cooperation between Egypt and Britain in professional medical education, through the Ministry of Health and Population and the British Royal College, to develop training programs in various medical specialties and adopt them in the Egyptian fellowship program.

Zayed thanked the ambassador and the British government for providing Cairo with 299,680 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in mid-August, and stressed the importance of the relations between the countries in fighting the pandemic.

Bailey affirmed Britain's keenness to continue permanent and fruitful cooperation with Egypt at various levels and areas of common interest, praising Egypt's strategy in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic.

He indicated London's keenness to continue cooperation with Egypt in the health sector and to provide all necessary support.



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Travel restrictions

Vaccinated Premier League players can travel to red list countries — govt

<u>Houthis under fire for killing</u> <u>displaced civilians in Marib</u>

Author:

Mon, 2021-10-04 22:35

AL-MUKALLA: Yemeni government officials, local and international activists and rights groups and western diplomats on Monday strongly condemned the Houthi shelling of a residential area in the central city of Marib that killed and wounded more than three dozen civilians.

On Sunday, three ballistic missiles fired by the Iran-backed Houthis hit the city of Marib, killing two children and wounding more than 30 people.

One of the three missiles landed in a house in Al-Rawada neighborhood hosting thousands of internally displaced people, flattening the building and killing Ghazlan Faisal Al-Bareq and her brother Rada and critically wounding their parents.

The family comes from the northern province of Amran, sheltering in Marib like thousands of Yemenis who fled the fighting and Houthi repression.

Graphic images taken by local journalists show the headless and burnt Ghazlan lying in a bed in a local hospital in Marib, with several other badly wounded children crying as they receive medication.

The US embassy in Yemen strongly condemned the "terrible" attack by the Houthis and demanded the militias work on achieving peace in Yemen.

"The Houthis only confirm their savagery with such attacks. They must abandon this aggression against their fellow Yemenis and seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict," Cathy Westley, charge d'affaires for the US embassy to Yemen, said in a brief statement.

Yemeni officials said that the latest deadly strike by the Houthis showed the rebels seeking to obstruct peace efforts to end the war, and vowed to punish them for murdering civilians.

Yemen's Vice President Ali Mohsen Ahmer on Monday accused the Houthis of "indifferently" snubbing calls and diplomatic activities to put an end to the conflict in Yemen and intensifying their deadly strikes on heavily populated civilian areas.

"Day after day, the terrorist militias prove to the Yemeni people, the region and the world their disregard for the blood of Yemenis and their rejection of everything that would lead to ending the bloodshed," the official news agency SABA quoted the vice president as saying. Similarly, Yemeni human rights activists and local rights groups have turned to social media and local press to voice their anger over the shelling, calling for greater pressure on the Houthis and blasting the rebels for violating international laws.

"The international community, the UN, and the (UN Yemen) envoy's office are more concerned than ever to intensify pressure on the Houthi militia to immediately stop launching any attacks on civilian objects," said Mutahar Al-Badhiji, executive director of the Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations.

Al-Badhiji told Arab News said that his organization has recorded the deaths of hundreds of civilians in Marib during the past seven years due to Houthi drone and missile strikes or land mines planted by the militia.

His organization said in a report released last week that land mines, missiles, explosive-laden and artillery rounds fired by the Houthis at central Marib had killed 440 civilians, including 61 children and 37 women, and wounded 914 civilians, including 124 children and 73 women, from December 2014 to June this year. During this period, the Houthis had fired 871 missiles, 119 projectiles and 44 exploding drones at 11 districts in Marib province.

"These are gross violations of human rights and international laws, and war crimes," Al-Badhiji said.

International rights and aid organizations also expressed concerns about the growing number of civilian casualties during the conflict, urging warring factions to protect civilians.

"Alarming reports from Marib, Yemen, where an attack on a neighborhood killed 2 children, injuring dozens others. Warring parties are duty bound to protect civilians. We need an end to fighting in Marib and across all Yemen," Jan Egeland, secretary-general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, said on Twitter.



Main category: <u>Middle-East</u> Tags: <u>Houthis</u> <u>Marib</u>

Yemen

Yemen government troops make new advances in Jouf provinceHouthis reject calls for truce, intensify attacks on Marib

Lavrov, Shoukry discuss solutions to regional crises in Moscow

Author:

Mon, 2021-10-04 20:53

CAIRO: Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, have discussed developments in several regional issues, including the Renaissance Dam project and the crises in Libya and Syria, at a meeting in Moscow.

Shoukry said the talks covered efforts to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and strengthening the two-state solution, and sponsoring all means to reach a permanent, comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian

issue that guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"I thank Russia for the support that Egypt has received from its side to address this issue in the (UN) Security Council, and we look forward to cooperating with Moscow on this issue, and reaching a binding legal solution that guarantees the rights of all parties, away from any unilateral policies inconsistent with the policies of international law," Shoukry said during a press conference with Lavrov in the Russian capital.

"We will continue to closely coordinate on this matter, including the issue of Palestinian national reconciliation, in which Egypt plays the main role in order to achieve Palestinian unity, in addition to working to fulfill the interests of the brotherly Palestinian people," Shoukry said.

He expressed his appreciation for the ministerial meetings between Cairo and Moscow and the holding of the joint commercial committee to promote the common interests of both parties, whether in the Dabaa nuclear plant or in promoting tourism.

"We look forward to continuing work to activate all these areas, and for the return of trade exchange to its levels, which was affected by the pandemic, but there is still fruitful cooperation as well as searching for more areas that strengthen relations," Shoukry continued.

Shoukry added that he and his Russian counterpart discussed ways to maintain stability and territorial integrity in Libya. The foreign minister said they covered activating the plan approved during the meetings of the Libyan National Forum, the importance of holding presidential and legislative elections on Dec. 24, and the need to maintain a ceasefire and the exit of all foreign forces from Libyan territory.

"We will continue to provide all care and support to achieve these goals so that the Libyan institutions regain their full authority, and to preserve the sovereignty of the Libyan territories, stability and security, and the complete elimination of terrorist organizations, which operate and use the Libyan territories as a haven to influence the stability of Libya and the stability of neighboring countries and the stability of the Sahel and Sahara region," Shoukry added.

Shoukry said that he briefed his Russian counterpart on the latest developments regarding the Renaissance Dam issue against the background of the presidential statement issued by the UN Security Council, expressing his thanks to Moscow for the support that Egypt received in addressing this issue with the UNSC.

Shoukry expressed his aspiration to continue cooperation between the two countries — given the existential nature of this issue for the future of Egypt — and the importance of urgently reaching an agreement through the presidency of the African Union.

The ministers also discussed the crisis in Syria and possible solutions that

align with the decisions of international legitimacy.

Shoukry said: "With regard to my meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Miqdad on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, it was important for this meeting to take place in light of what the Syrian crisis has reached," stressing Egypt's keenness to help Syria out of its crisis.

The ministers also discussed the crisis in Syria and possible solutions that align with the decisions of international legitimacy.

"Cairo considers Syria an integral part of the Arab domain and Arab national security, and historically the Egyptian-Syrian relations have always been of importance at the bilateral level, in addition to being one of the pillars of cooperation and coordination and support for maintaining Arab national security," Shoukry added.

He said that Egypt will work with Syria to take measures that preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

"We await the measures that the Syrian government may take within the framework of the political solution in Syria, as well as activating the course of the constitutional committee's discussions and taking into account the humanitarian situation in Syria to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people and meet their needs."

Lavrov stressed the need to provide aid to the Syrians to overcome the repercussions of the decade-long crisis, and work to reach a political settlement on the basis of UNSC resolutions.

Lavrov added that the terror threat in the Idlib region remains high, and that the terrorist groups stationed there are attacking the units of the Syrian army as well as Russian forces.



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Sameh Shoukry
Sergey Lavrov
Moscow

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