

WORLD

Israeli strikes on Syria decried

Domestic upheaval must not be exploited to undermine sovereignty, UN warns

By JAN YUMUL in Hong Kong
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The United Nations said on Tuesday that it rejects any aggression against Syrian sovereignty and violations of its territorial integrity, while Israel said it was establishing a "sterile defense zone" in southern Syria after carrying out more than 350 strikes in 48 hours.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said at a news conference that Syria's "turning point" should not be used by its neighbors to encroach upon its territory, and should instead be used by all those in the region to support the Syrian people.

Dujarric said they were very clear about the violation of the 1974 disengagement agreement following the Israel Defense Forces' occupation of the buffer zone. In 1967, Israel occupied most of the Golan Heights during the Middle East war and later annexed the territory. This was never recognized by the international community.

Meanwhile, Geir Pedersen, the UN special envoy for Syria, told journalists in Geneva on Tuesday that the conflict in northeastern Syria is not over as there have been clashes between the Syrian National Army, the opposition groups and the Syrian Democratic Forces.

"We are calling obviously for calm also in this area," Pedersen said.

In addition, Israeli troop movements into the occupied Golan Heights and bombardments "need to stop," he said. "The message from New York is just the same — that what we are seeing is a violation of the disengagement agreement in 1974."

In a post on X, the Israel Defense Forces reported striking most of what it claimed were the strategic weapons stockpiles in Syria in 48 hours "to prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorist elements".



This aerial view shows the aftermath of an overnight strike attributed to Israel on the Barzeh scientific research center affiliated with the Syrian Defense Ministry in Damascus on Tuesday. OMAR HAJ KADOUR / AFP

Among the actions were more than 350 airstrikes. A "wide range of targets" included anti-aircraft batteries, Syrian Air Force airfields and dozens of alleged weapons production sites in Damascus, Homs, Tartus, Latakia and Palmyra.

Syria's naval operations were also targeted, including the Al-Bayda port and the Latakia port, where 15 Syrian naval vessels were hit.

Pedersen said Syria is still in a very "fluid" period, adding that there is a real opportunity for change, but it needs to be grasped by the Syrians themselves and supported by the UN and the international community.

Abu Mohammad Al-Jolani, leader of the opposition group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham that led the rebel offensive and wrested control of Syria, told CNN that their goal had been to

overthrow Syria's longtime president Bashar al-Assad.

Syria's caretaker Prime Minister Mohamed al-Bashir called for stability and calm amid a leadership change.

On Wednesday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the toppling of Assad was the result of a plan by the United States and Israel.

"What happened in Syria was mainly planned in the command rooms of America and Israel. We have evidence of this. A neighboring government of Syria was also involved," Khamenei said in a speech reported by state media, without naming the neighboring country in question.

Dina Yulianti Sulaiman, director of the Indonesia Center for Middle East Studies, told China Daily that Israel, which is "most invested in weakening Syria" because of the latter's histori-

cally hostile stance toward it, will not allow Syria to become stable and secure.

"In recent days, Israel has bombed Syria, destroying nearly all of Syria's military facilities, effectively leaving the country with no capacity to defend its sovereignty," she said.

"The accumulation of Israeli attacks, the collapse of infrastructure safeguarding territorial sovereignty, economic hardships, and internal chaos bring the potential for Syria's balkanization, as long envisioned in Israel's Oded Yinon Plan."

The Oded Yinon Plan refers to a strategy, outlined in a 1982 article by a former Israeli official and scholar, for Israel's expansion in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Reuters contributed to this story.

Briefly

AMERICAS

Dengue death toll hits 7,700 this year

Reported cases of dengue in the Americas nearly tripled to a record high of more than 12.6 million this year, including 21,000 severe cases and more than 7,700 deaths, the Pan American Health Organization said on Tuesday. This year's outbreak of dengue, the most common mosquito-borne disease worldwide, is the biggest since records began in 1980, PAHO said. The deadly viral illness has hit Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico especially hard, with the four accounting for 90 percent of cases and 88 percent of deaths, it said, adding that children are at elevated risk of contracting dengue and suffering its more severe consequences.

SUDAN

Humanitarian crisis in nation the biggest ever

Sudan has become the "biggest humanitarian crisis ever recorded" after 20 months of devastating conflict between rival generals, the International Rescue Committee said on Wednesday. "The country accounts for 10 percent of all people in humanitarian need, despite being home to less than 1 percent of global population," it said in its 2025 Emergency Watchlist. Since April last year, a conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted 12 million. Across the country, nearly 26 million people — about half the population — are facing acute hunger, according to the United Nations.

GAZA STRIP

Bombardments kill at least 33 Palestinians

Israeli attacks across the Gaza Strip killed at least 33 Palestinians on Wednesday, most of them in an airstrike on a house in Beit Lahya town in the north of the enclave, medics said. The Beit Lahya strike

killed at least 22 people, including women and children, health officials said. More than 30 people were living in the multistory building before it was struck, and several family members remained missing as rescue operations continued through the morning, the Palestinian Wafa news agency reported. The Israeli military said it was checking the report. Earlier on Wednesday, at least seven Palestinians were killed and several others wounded in an Israeli airstrike on a house in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, medics told Reuters.

UNITED STATES

Trump picks envoys for Greece, Türkiye

US President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday picked Kimberly Guilfoyle, a former Fox News host turned political fundraiser, as the next US ambassador to Greece and Tom Barrack, the chair of his 2016 inaugural committee, the next ambassador to Türkiye. Guilfoyle had been engaged to Trump's eldest son Donald Trump Jr, but the two recently split up, according to US media. Barrack is a longtime friend of Trump, and also a private equity executive who faced legal scrutiny for his work on behalf of the United Arab Emirates.

Boeing's 737 MAX production resumes

Boeing said on Tuesday it has resumed production of the 737 MAX in Renton, Washington state, after a nearly three-month stoppage because of a lengthy labor strike. Its Everett facility, where the 767, 777 and 787 are produced, will resume operations in the coming days, it added. The two plants were shuttered for more than seven weeks after some 33,000 workers voted down an initial contract offer in September. On Nov 4, workers ratified a revised proposal, setting the stage for a resumption of work.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA



Wang Zhijian, chairman of China National Heavy Duty Truck Group, introduces the company's achievements in 2024 and targets for 2025 at the Sinotruk Partner Conference 2025 on Sunday. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Sinotruk's revenue and profit defy weak trade

By YUAN SHENGGAO

China National Heavy Duty Truck Group, or Sinotruk, one of the country's major heavy-duty truck manufacturers, said despite sluggish domestic industrial performance and weakening international market, the company achieved growth in its total sales revenue and profit.

"In 2024, Sinotruk's total revenue is expected to exceed 194 billion yuan (\$26.75 billion), a year-on-year increase of more than 10 percent; total profit and tax are expected to reach 12 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of more than 15 percent; total vehicle sales are expected to be 370,000 units, a year-on-year growth of more than 10 percent," Wang Zhijian, chairman of the company, said.

Wang was speaking at the Sinotruk Partner Conference 2025, which took place in Jinan, Shandong province, on Sunday. "In 2024, Sinotruk achieved outstanding results through hard work and industrial strength," Wang said.

Over the past year, amid market pressure, Sinotruk has made an in-depth exploration of user

demands and created excellent products with keen market insights, Wang said.

Sinotruk is expected to sell 105,000 heavy-duty trucks in 2024, with market share exceeding 20.2 percent, an increase of 2 percentage points year-on-year. It is also expected to sell 95,000 light-duty trucks in 2024, with market share exceeding 18.5 percent, an increase of 2.5 percentage points year-on-year.

In terms of green and low-carbon initiatives, it is estimated that the sales of new energy heavy-duty trucks will reach 8,600 units in 2024, a 280 percent year-on-year increase. Meanwhile, its market share in midrange and short-haul tractors, urban construction dump trucks and urban sanitation vehicles has increased rapidly.

In terms of technological innovation, Sinotruk invested an estimated 3.1 billion yuan in research and development in 2024, an 8 percent year-on-year increase. It has achieved a series of innovative results, for example, a new generation of medium and heavy-duty truck models with a total of 307 patented technologies.

In addition, Sinotruk is increasing its efforts in the development of new energy vehicles. These include pure electric, hydrogen fuel and hybrid vehicles, aiming for comprehensive coverage of new energy technologies.

Sinotruk has been investing heavily to advance product upgrades in low energy consumption, lightweight design and optimized shifting, in a bid to provide new choices for users.

To showcase the company's achievements in various aspects, the annual meeting set up multiple exhibition areas on-site. It covered long-haul transport, coal transport, express delivery, green channels, cold chain, light vehicles and new energy, encompassing a full range of products from traditional internal combustion engine power to clean energy and new energy.

It also launched a new generation heavy-duty truck, which is compatible with six major energy sources: fuel, gas, hybrid, pure electricity, methanol and hydrogen. Traditional energy product solutions, covering categories such as

tractors, cargo trucks, construction vehicles and light-duty trucks were also among the release highlights.

Data show that in 2023, the volume of used commercial vehicle transactions exceeded new vehicles for the first time. In 2024, the volume of used vehicle transactions was 1.2 times that of new vehicles.

In response to this, Sinotruk took the initiative to establish a used car certification system for the industry. It formulated strict standards for used car inspection and certification, and addressed the shortcomings in the current domestic used commercial vehicle market. These include weak professional capabilities in testing and evaluation, high replacement costs, and inaccurate matching of vehicle sources with user needs.

Furthermore, in terms of service system construction, Sinotruk insists on being user-centered. It continuously improves service networks and processes, enhances service quality and efficiency, and provides users with more convenient and efficient service experiences through digitization and intelligent means.

Truck maker shifts up a gear with overseas sales

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Chairman Wang Zhijian of China National Heavy Duty Truck Group, also known as Sinotruk, said at the Sinotruk Partner Conference 2025 that the group is expected to export 135,000 heavy-duty trucks this year, a year-on-year increase of 4 percent, with export revenue reaching 45.1 billion yuan (\$6.2 billion), a 5 percent increase.

Among them, sales in markets such as Saudi Arabia and Australia have grown rapidly, with the former increasing by 74 percent year-on-year and the latter by 98 percent.

Wang said that the group has established 29 knockdown factories overseas and registered four subsidiaries so far. It has 226 dealers, 246 service points and 217 parts supply networks globally. Despite facing stagnation in the domestic industry and weakening international markets, the group's total revenue for the year is expected to exceed 194 billion yuan, a 10 percent year-on-year increase.

The Sinotruk Partner Conference 2025, with the theme "We Are One", opened in Jinan, Shandong province, on Sunday. The event featured a diverse exhibition of Sinotruk products including new energy vehicles and specialized products designed for long-haul transportation, green cold chain, express delivery and more.

Entering overseas markets is an essential path for the internationalization of Sinotruk, the company said. After years of expansion, the group's

exports span the world, including developing countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, South America, the Middle East, Central Asia, as well as BRICS countries, Australia, New Zealand and other developed markets.

Thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative, its heavy-duty truck products are being exported to participating countries and regions, which are becoming trusted partners for the group. The group's marketing network, supply chain partners and customer base are growing globally.

In 2024, Sinotruk accelerated its overseas industry chain layout to compete directly with international brands. This has significantly enhanced its international market competitiveness.

In September, Sinotruk showcased seven models at the IAA Transportation's commercial vehicle exhibition in Hannover, Germany. These included products such as hydrogen internal combustion engine traction trains, hydrogen fuel cell tractors, pickup trucks and electric light-duty trucks.

At the Sinotruk Partner Conference, Wang announced the company's goal for 2025 and said: "Sinotruk will fully leverage its own strengths and accelerate the global deployment of a full range of commercial vehicles. It will achieve total vehicle sales of 450,000 units by 2025, with a year-on-year increase above 20 percent, in a bid to become a notable player in the Chinese commercial vehicle industry."



A variety of vehicles manufactured by the company are on display at the Sinotruk Partner Conference 2025.