

# Jordanians protest against Bahrain economic workshop

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Sat, 2019-06-22 00:58

AMMAN: Two separate demonstrations were held in the Jordanian capital of Amman on Friday in protest against the upcoming Peace for Prosperity economic workshop due to take place June 25 and 26 in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, in which the US will lay out the economic components of President Donald Trump's administration's Middle East peace plan.

Some 3,000 protesters streamed out of the Al-Husseini Mosque in downtown Amman in response to a call by the Islamic Movement and others for Jordan to take a firm stance against the US-led peace initiative.

Jordan's King Abdullah has made it clear that Jordan will not support the resettlement of Palestinian refugees, nor any plan that does not include a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He has also rejected claims that "Jordan is Palestine."

Protesters included leading political, union and parliamentary leaders at a rally that also included calls for the cancellation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the defense of Al-Aqsa Mosque "with our blood and soul," along with an affirmation that Jordanians "will not yield to America." In reference to Jerusalem, protesters chanted, "Jordanians will never forget that they are the custodians of Al Aqsa" – a clear reference to the Hashemite custodianship of Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

A young protester told Arab News, "We tell those who intend to attend the Bahrain workshop that Palestine and Jerusalem are not up for sale."

The head of the Islamic Movement's parliamentary committee Abed Akalileh, called on the protestors to reject Trump's "Deal of the Century" and any efforts to negotiate on Jerusalem.

"Palestine is not for sale or exchange. We want the king to know that we are behind him and that the people are with him no matter how much pressure and siege we are under," he said. "How can we hint about participating in the Bahrain workshop when Palestinians, Lebanese, and Iraqis have said they will not go? We should also announce we are not going."

Jordan has yet to officially announce its plans, but US officials have said that Jordan, Egypt and Morocco have indicated to them that they will attend the workshop.

A much smaller demonstration of leftists took place Friday afternoon, with protesters marching to the US Embassy in west Amman's Abdoun neighborhood. The protesters criticized the US and "Arab reactionaries," and insisted that the people of Jordan will not compromise on Palestine and Jerusalem.



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Egypt, Morocco, Jordan to attend Bahrain workshop on Palestine investment  
Palestine says US ambassador helps Israel to annex part of West Bank

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## [Algerian protesters hold demonstrations despite arrests](#)

Author:

AFP, Reuters

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1561153977815820900

Sat, 2019-06-22 00:51

ALGIERS: Hundreds of Algerian protesters gathered on Friday in the capital despite a spate of arrests ahead of the latest weekly rally since the April 2 resignation of longtime President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, AFP correspondents said.

The demonstrators in central Algiers brandished the Algerian flag that has

been a mainstay of the protests but some also carried the Berber colors despite a ban on the minority's flag imposed this week by army chief Gen. Ahmed Gaid Salah, Algeria's strongman since Bouteflika's ouster. "No to regionalism, we are all brothers," the protesters chanted. Police earlier detained dozens of demonstrators, especially those carrying the Berber colors, from around the capital's main post office, the epicenter of demonstrations since they first broke out in February. On previous Fridays since the fall of Bouteflika, those detained have been released at the end of the day. Although the army chief has ordered a wave of anti-corruption investigations, demonstrators have kept up calls for his departure along with the entire regime that surrounded Bouteflika.

### **Businessman held**

In a related development, Algeria has detained businessman Hassan Larbaoui in an anti-corruption investigation launched after protests ended the rule of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, state radio said on Friday.

Larbaoui is director of a private company called Global Group, which runs a car assembly plant set up in joint venture with South Korea's Kia Motors. Bouteflika stepped down on April 2 under pressure from the army after mass protests demanding an end to his 20-year rule and calls for his ruling elite to be held to account for corruption. The army, which now holds sway, has promised to act.

The court of first instance in Algiers ordered Larbaoui to be detained, along with the head of state bank Banque Nationale d'Algerie (BNA) and two industry ministry officials, state radio reported.

### **FASTFACT**

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- Although the army chief has ordered a wave of anti-corruption investigations, demonstrators have kept up calls for his departure.

Larbaoui's legal representative was not immediately available for comment. The joint venture company could not be reached for comment. BNA declined to comment.

On Thursday, the same court referred ex-Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia and two former industry ministers, Youcef Yousfi and Mahdjoub Bedda, to the public prosecutor to be investigated for alleged corruption related to the same case, state radio said.

Ouyahia and other officials could not immediately be reached for comment, nor could their representatives.

The seven are being investigated on accusations of "dissipation of public funds, illegal privileges and money laundering," the radio said.

The supreme court also ordered the detention of Ouyahia and another former prime minister, Abdelmalek Sellal, last week for "dissipation of public funds and awarding illegal privileges" in a separate corruption case.



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Bouteflika-era tycoon jailed for six months in Algeria  
Algeria conditionally releases ex-finance chief in graft probe

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## [7 killed in Baghdad explosion at Shiite mosque](#)

Author:

Sat, 2019-06-22 00:50

BAGHDAD: A bomb blast killed seven people at a Shiite mosque in eastern Baghdad on Friday and wounded more than 20, police sources said.

The blast hit the Imam Mahdi Al-Muntadhar Mosque in Baladiyat, near the massive and densely populated district of Sadr City.

“At least one attacker wearing a belt of explosives tried to enter the building but was stopped by the guards, and detonated himself outside,” one officer said.

“Two civilians were killed and nine people were wounded,” the source said. The second officer confirmed the details and toll for the attack. At the

scene, security forces quickly deployed to cordon off the site, a photographer at the mosque said.

It was a rare attack on a Shiite place of worship in the Iraqi capital.

Extremists carried out high-profile bombings of Iraqi Shiite sites during the worst of the country's sectarian violence after the US invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Baghdad's security improved significantly with the defeat of Daesh in 2017 and bomb attacks of any kind in the city have been rare since then.

Iraq has witnessed a rare period of relative calm in recent months after decades of back-to-back conflict, including years of sectarian violence that regularly saw dozens killed in explosions in Baghdad.



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## [US forces prepare to evacuate contractors from Iraqi base – Reuters](#)

Sat, 2019-06-22 00:19

TIKRIT, Iraq: US forces are preparing to evacuate hundreds of staff working for Lockheed Martin Corp. and Sallyport Global from an Iraqi military base where they work as contractors, three Iraqi military sources said on Friday. Nearly 400 contractors from the two firms were getting ready to leave Balad military base north of Baghdad which hosts US forces over “potential security threats.” Their departure was imminent, the sources said.



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## [King Abdullah of Jordan slams ‘hate-](#)

# filled outlaws of Islam'

Thu, 2019-06-20 21:21

AMMAN / SINGAPORE: Attacks on interfaith harmony, mutual respect and trust are the "world's single most important threat," King Abdullah of Jordan warned.

Speaking on Thursday at the International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) in Singapore, Jordan's monarch condemned both "outlaws of Islam and extremist Islamophobes."

"Perpetuators of hate-filled messages are distorting our religion's great heritage and teachings," he said.

King Abdullah called on the global community to tackle this challenge by "resisting hatred and exclusion," supporting economic growth and protecting the environment.

In a keynote speech, the Jordanian ruler urged 700 delegates from 40 countries to apply the golden rule. "Loving one's neighbor is not just an ideal. It is the golden rule that enables all of us to live side by side, to look beyond ourselves, and to achieve what we can only achieve in common."

The conference was organized by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) with the support of Singapore's Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.

Ong Keng Yong, executive deputy chairman of RSIS, described the Singapore conference as a platform for constructive dialogue to strengthen mutual trust and understanding across communities.

"Singapore is a multiracial, multi-religious society, and we work hard to keep our country peaceful and secure. At the same time, we are part of the global community, which faces challenges posed by increased connectivity, intensifying identity politics, and infinite technological development," he said.

King Abdullah listed Jordanian efforts including the Amman Message, the Common Word Initiative, and UN World Interfaith week.

However, when it comes to hate speech on the internet, solutions are not exclusively the responsibility of governments and big companies, he said.

"In a very real way, the internet belongs to its users. Moderate, positive voices need to reclaim this space and redirect the dialogue away from misinformation, insults and fear, and toward understanding and respect. Young men and women have a vital role in speaking up on social media and social networking sites, and using their talent for innovation to promote mutual understanding and hope."

The Jordanian monarch also called for a "holistic approach to address

security and the issues that extremists exploit.”

Perpetuators of hate-filled messages are distorting our religion’s great heritage and teachings.

*King Abdullah*

“We must also help to resolve conflicts, especially the core crisis of my region, the long denial of Palestinian statehood. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has fueled global discord and radicalism. We all need a lasting peace, meeting the needs of both sides, with a viable, independent, sovereign Palestinian state, on 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital, but living side by side with Israel, in peace and security.

“We must safeguard Jerusalem, a holy city to billions of people around the world. As Hashemite Custodian of Jerusalem’s Islamic and Christian holy sites, I am bound by a special duty. But for all of us, Jerusalem must be a unifying city of peace.”

“King Abdullah is in a very difficult spot,” said Dr. James M. Dorsey, a Middle East expert and senior fellow at Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University.

Speaking to Arab News, Dr. Dorsey said the king’s speech reflects the geographical situation his country is facing.

“Every single border of his country is conflict-risk and impacts the country’s stability. If there is one country that desperately needs to get away from polarization and conflict and move toward conflict resolution, it is Jordan.”

Other speakers at the conference include Dr. Ali Al-Nuaimi, chairman of the World Muslim Communities Council; Bishop Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue; Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, deputy mufti and senior director at Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura; and John Alderdice, former Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Over the weekend, Singaporeans can experience key elements of the conference through a series of “Heartland Dialogues and Experiences” at locations across the city. These include “learning journeys” and opportunities to speak with conference speakers.

In parallel with the conference, the “Many Beliefs, One Future” exhibition explores human connections across different beliefs through a collection of artworks and artifacts.

The exhibition is open until June 13 at the Raffles City Shopping Center.

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Jordan's King Abdallah urges EU to fight "Islamophobia"