

Hostile Drones Blocked

UAE Air defence forces intercepted six drones over 48 hours, Ministry of Defence

The United Arab Emirates said its air defence systems intercepted and neutralised six hostile drones over the previous 48 hours that attempted to target civilian and critical infrastructure, according to a Ministry of Defence statement.

The ministry said air defence forces responded with “high levels of readiness and efficiency,” preventing any casualties or damage to vital installations.

It also said that, as part of ongoing investigations into an attack on the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant on May 17, 2026, technical tracking showed



Illustration purpose only

that three drones involved in that incident originated from Iraqi territory. Two drones

were intercepted, while a third struck an external electrical generator outside the plant’s

inner perimeter. The statement added that monitoring and analysis results traced the additional drones intercepted over the past two days back to the same origin.

The Ministry of Defence said the UAE reserves its full right to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty and national security in accordance with international law.

It also stressed that the armed forces remain fully prepared to deal with any threats targeting the country’s security and national capabilities.

Bahrain Backs UAE Security

UN speech highlights dangers posed by attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities in the Gulf



Bahrain strongly condemned the recent drone attacks targeting the peaceful Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in the United Arab Emirates, describing them as a dangerous escalation and a direct threat to nuclear safety and regional security.

Speaking before the United Nations Security Council, Jamal Fares Alrowaie said Bahrain deeply regretted the continued attacks on critical infrastructure, energy facilities and peaceful nuclear sites across the region.

Alrowaie thanked Rafael Grossi for his briefing on the incident involving the Barakah plant and praised the UAE authorities for their transparency and swift coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency and GCC countries.

He said the attacks occurred at a sensitive time while discussions on nuclear safety and security were taking place during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review process. He warned of a growing gap between international political statements and actions on the ground.

Bahrain described the attack as a “serious and unjustified escalation” and a violation of international law and relevant Security Council resolutions protecting civilian and nuclear infrastructure.

Alrowaie also referred to previous attacks in the region, including an incident on April 5, 2026 involving petrochemical infrastructure in Bahrain, warning that rapid

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Date: May 17, 2026

Target: Barakah Nuclear Power Plant

Drones Intercepted: 2

Impact: One drone hit external generator

Result: Fire contained, no radiation impact

Plant Status: Operations unaffected

intervention by authorities had prevented what could have become a major humanitarian and environmental disaster.

He stressed that repeated attacks on critical infrastructure, maritime corridors and energy facilities in GCC countries threaten regional stability, global supply chains and international energy security.

The Bahraini envoy reaffirmed Bahrain’s full solidarity with the UAE and stressed that the security of GCC states remains indivisible. He also condemned recent drone attacks targeting the Saudi Arabia, saying such actions reflect a continuing pattern of escalation threatening the region’s security and stability.

Escalation in West Bank, Gaza as OIC reports surge in casualties

● Property seizures planned near Al-Aqsa Mosque

● Settler violence and demolition campaigns continue

● UNRWA-linked school facilities affected

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Media Observatory on Israeli Crimes Against Palestinians reported a sharp escalation in violations between May 12 and 18, 2026, including increased incidents at religious sites and a rise in casualties across the occupied Palestinian territories.

According to the weekly report, the period was marked by heightened tensions surrounding Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Al-Quds, where Israeli authorities approved a plan to confiscate around 20 historic Palestinian properties in the Bab al-Silsila neighbourhood, located near the mosque compound. The move further intensified concerns over the status of the Old City’s religious and cultural heritage.

The report also noted contin-



ued incursions by Israel’s National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir into the Al-Aqsa compound, alongside reported violations at the Ibrahimi Mosque and other mosques across the West Bank.

In the same period, the observatory documented 35 fatalities

and 176 injuries, bringing the total number of Palestinians killed since October 7, 2023, to 73,934, with 183,415 wounded, according to its figures.

The Gaza Strip accounted for 24 of the deaths and 150 injuries, with five additional bodies reportedly recovered from under rubble. In the West Bank, six people were killed and 25 injured during the reporting period.

Israeli forces carried out 299 raids across West Bank cities and villages, resulting in 120 arrests, including 15 children. The report said one child was killed and two others wounded during these operations, while

settlers attacked five children in separate incidents.

During a raid on Qalandia refugee camp, forces entered two educational facilities: Al-Alam School and a training institute run by UNRWA.

The observatory further recorded widespread demolitions, including four houses, 41 commercial structures, two car washes, a room, residential walls, and a livestock pen, alongside land confiscations.

It also documented 119 settler attacks and 14 settlement-related activities over the week, describing a continued expansion of settlement activity across the occupied West Bank.

GCC, Somalia Discuss Housing and Infrastructure Cooperation

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, met on Tuesday with Somalia’s Minister of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing, Ayub Ismail Yusuf, on the sidelines of the 13th session of the World Urban Forum in the Azerbaijani capital, the GCC General Secretariat said.

Yusuf, who also serves as a member of the Somali Parliament, held discussions with Albudaiwi on ways to strengthen cooperation between the GCC and the Federal Republic of Somalia, particularly in areas linked to urban development, housing, and infrastructure.



The meeting reviewed topics of mutual interest, reflecting growing engagement between the two sides in development-related sectors.

Both sides also discussed op-

portunities to expand cooperation in reconstruction efforts and sustainable urban planning, reflecting a shared interest in enhancing technical and institutional partnerships.

The World Urban Forum, organised by UN-Habitat, brings together global policymakers, city planners, and development experts to address urban challenges and strategies for sustainable cities.

Drone strike kills 28 at Sudan market

A drone strike on a crowded market in southern Sudan killed 28 people and injured 23 others on Tuesday, according to a medical source and witnesses, marking one of the deadliest recent attacks on civilians in the country’s three-year war.

The strike hit the town of Ghubaysh in West Kordofan, an area controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which has been locked in conflict with the Sudanese military since April 2023.

A medical source said the dead and wounded were taken to the town hospital, while witnesses described scenes of panic and destruction at the main market.

Two witnesses said a drone



struck a crowded restaurant and attributed the attack to the Sudanese army. Another witness described what appeared to be a two-stage strike: an initial explosion targeting an RSF vehicle killed three people, followed moments later by a second blast that hit the restaurant.

A Sudanese advocacy group, Emergency Lawyers, said the market was a vital civilian hub used by thousands for food and essential supplies.

The Sudanese Armed Forces denied responsibility, stating in a release that it only targets “military objectives,” including vehicles and weapons depots.