

China summoned representatives from major tech companies to warn them of "dire consequences" if they go along with the US prohibition on sales of certain US technology to a number of Chinese companies.

Hamas slams US envoy for condoning Israeli settlements

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas condemned the US envoy for his remarks condoning Israel's expansionist policy on illegal settlements, saying they reflect Washington's extremist view on the issue.

Member of Hamas' International Relations Office Basem Naim said that remarks earlier in the day by David Friedman, who serves as the US ambassador to the occupied Palestinian territories, represented "the destructive thinking of the extreme American leadership."

"The statements of the American ambassador are completely consistent with the view of the most extreme Israeli right-wing and a disregard of the US government for all Arab positions," said Naim, whose Hamas government sits in the besieged Gaza Strip but is allied to the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank, according to Press TV.

The statement came after Friedman said Israel has a right to claim parts of the occupied West Bank as it seeks to annex the territory despite all international bans on the move.

"Under certain circumstances, I think Israel has the right to retain some, but unlikely all, of the West Bank," Friedman said in an interview published by The New York Times on Saturday.

The remarks have caused an outrage both in the Middle East and around the world at a time when many believe



A picture taken on May 14, 2019 shows the Israeli settlement of Neve Yaakov in the northern area of East Al-Quds and the Palestinian district of Hizma (background) in the West Bank. AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP

Washington is violating international regulations by allowing Israel to expand its settlements into territories occupied after the 1967 Six-Day War.

Palestinian officials in the West Bank reiterated that Friedman's remarks represented a crime under international law.

Saeb Erekat, a top PA negotiator, said, "the remarks showed that US government was heavily biased in favor of

Israel despite pretending that it seeks peace in the occupied territories.

"Their vision is about annexation of occupied territory, a war crime under international law," Erekat said in a tweet.

Usameh al-Ghawasimi, a spokesman for the West Bank-based Fatah party, said Friedman was trying to mislead the truth and violate international law.

"Friedman has become the

mouthpiece for racism and the Israeli apartheid system, instead of being the US ambassador," said Ghawasimi, adding, "Friedman's remarks violate the foundations agreed upon for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and international and regional peace and stability."

European governments have repeatedly criticized US President Donald Trump for his policy on the Palestin-

ian issue, especially his move in late 2017 to recognize the occupied Al-Quds as Israel's capital.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Saturday reiterated France and the European Union's opposition to the decision and said Trump administration's still-secret plan for creating peace in the occupied territories was "an approach that cannot grant serenity."

Yemen conducts drone attacks on Saudi airport in Jizan



Yemeni armed forces launched fresh drone attacks on the airport in Saudi Arabia's southwestern Jizan region.

Yemen's Al-Masirah TV channel reported on Sunday that Qasif-2K combat drones targeted drone bunkers and stations at the Jizan airport after collecting intelligence on the sites.

It quoted a military source as saying that Saudi Arabia had converted the Jizan airport into a military base, according to Press TV.

Over the past few weeks, the Yemeni Army and allied Popular Committees have carried out several drone attacks

on the Jizan and Najran airports in retaliation for the war that Saudi Arabia has been leading on Yemen since March 2015.

Last month, a Yemeni drone targeted a major oil pumping station deep inside Saudi Arabia, forcing state crude giant Aramco to temporarily shut down pumping operations at the site.

Yemen's Defense Minister Mohammed Nasser al-Atifi said last week that the country had made great strides in its defense sector and would "surprise" Saudi Arabia and its allies that have been waging a war against Yemen.

Four killed as political violence erupts in West Bengal state

Three supporters of India's ruling right-wing party and another from a rival were killed in a gun battle in West Bengal state.

At least 18 others were wounded in the clashes that broke out on Saturday in the eastern state that has been on edge since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched an aggressive campaign to win the parliamentary seats last year.

"Three of the dead were BJP workers while the other was a [regional] Trinamool party supporter," an unnamed police official told the AFP.

Local BJP leader Mukul Roy tweeted that three BJP workers were "shot dead" in Sandeshkhali, West Bengal, Al Jazeera reported.

The clashes broke out over the hoisting of BJP flags and the putting up of posters, said BJP's general secretary in the state, Sayantan Basu.

"They tried to throw away our party flags and posters and when we protested, our workers were shot from

point-blank range." Basu was quoted as saying by Press Trust of India news agency.

State's Minister Jyotipriyo Mullick, who belongs to the Trinamool Congress, said one of the party supporters was "hacked and shot dead by BJP workers."

"When he was on his way to attend a party meeting, he was hacked at first. When he managed to free himself, he was shot dead," Mullick told reporters in Sandeshkhali.

Rival supporters have regularly clashed in the politically volatile state where the BJP won 18 seats, up from the two it managed in 2014, en route to its massive nationwide win last month.

Modi's party won 303 seats in the national parliament, increasing its previous tally of 282 seats in 2014.

The Trinamool Congress - which has its stronghold in West Bengal and is led by the firebrand Mamata Banerjee - accuses the BJP of fomenting trouble in the state.



West Bengal has witnessed some of the most violent feuds between rival parties. Last month, a BJP supporter was shot dead in state capital Kolkata and a car belonging to a Trinamool

member was pelted with rocks.

Last year, a BJP worker was killed and his body was hanged from a tree. Prime Minister Modi called the killings "shameful and anti-democratic".



Sudan police fire tear gas as 'civil disobedience' campaign starts

Sudanese police fired tear gas at protesters taking part in a "civil disobedience" campaign, called in the wake of a deadly crackdown on demonstrators, that began on Sunday.

Protesters gathered tires, tree trunks and rocks to build new roadblocks in Khartoum's northern Bahari district, an unnamed witness told AFP, but riot police swiftly moved in and fired tear gas to disperse the crowd.

"Almost all internal roads of Bahari have roadblocks. Protesters are even stopping residents from going to work," said the witness, aljazeera.com reported.

The latest bid by demonstrators to close off streets in the capital comes nearly a week after a deadly raid on a sit-in outside the army headquarters that killed dozens.

The bloody crackdown last Monday prompted the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which first launched protests against longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in December, to announce the campaign.

"The civil disobedience movement will begin Sunday and end only when a civilian government announces itself in power on state television," the SPA said in a statement earlier.

"Disobedience is a peaceful act capable of bringing to its knees the most powerful weapons arsenal in the world."

Political outcome?

Waleed Madibo, from the Sudan Policy Forum, said the campaign is unlikely to bring down the ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC), but it could divide its leaders.

"By using violence as an imperative, [the military] left the civic society no option but to go through with civil disobedience. They're already rounding up political dissidents, they started assassinating leaders of the sit-in, and by doing so the Transitional Military Council has totally eliminated any chance of a political outcome," Madibo told Al Jazeera.

Led by men in army fatigues, the raid on the weeks-long sit-in outside the army complex left at least 113 people dead, according to doctors close to the demonstrators.

The health ministry, however, said 61 people died in the crackdown, 52 of them by "live ammunition" in Khartoum.

Witnesses say the assault was led by the feared Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which has its origins in the notorious Janjaweed militia, accused of abuses in the Darfur conflict between 2003 and 2004.

Mediation talks

The call for "civil disobedience" came a day after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited Khartoum, seeking to revive talks between the generals and protest leaders on the country's transition.

The TMC seized power in April after removing al-Bashir on the back of months-long protests against his nearly 30-year rule. Since then, it has resisted calls from protesters and Western nations to transfer power to a civilian administration.

Several rounds of talks with the demonstrators finally broke down in mid-May. In a bid to revive the negotiations, the Ethiopian prime minister held separate meetings with the two sides in Khartoum on Friday.

"The army, the people and political forces have to act with courage and responsibility by taking quick steps towards a democratic and consensual transitional period," Abiy said in a statement after the meetings.

"The army has to protect the security of the country and its people and political forces have to think about the future of the country."

But three members of an opposition delegation who met the Ethiopian prime minister were later arrested, their aides said on Saturday.

Opposition politician Mohamed Esmat was arrested on Friday, and Ismail Jalab, a leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), was taken from his home. SPLM-N spokesman Mubarak Ardol was also arrested.

Esmat and Jalab are both leading members of the Alliance for Freedom and Change, an umbrella of opposition parties and some protest groups.

The alliance, of which the SPA is a key member, was the main organizer of mass protests since December that led to al-Bashir's removal.

Khartoum tense

The arrest of leaders threatens to further complicate efforts to reconcile the protest movement and the generals.

"The Transitional Military Council is not really serious about negotiating with civilians. This could not have been more blatant in the eye of the opposition and it certainly paralyzes any effort to move forward in negotiations," Eric Reeves, a researcher on Sudan at Harvard University, told Al Jazeera.

Since the crackdown, Khartoum residents have mostly been sheltering indoors and the streets have been deserted. RSF members and soldiers on Saturday cleared major Khartoum streets of roadblocks put up by protesters.

The RSF chief and deputy head of the TMC, Lieutenant-General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, warned he will not tolerate "any chaos."