

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahrainis have taken to the streets south of the capital Manama in solidarity with political prisoners, sparking clashes with regime forces. The demonstrators rallied on the island of Sitra and several nearby villages against mistreatment of political detainees. The protests broke out after some reports said inmates at a jail were assaulted by guards.

Importance of the deeds that you have done with fear of Allah cannot be minimized and how can the deeds which are acceptable to Allah be considered unimportant.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Over Killing Resistance Members Hezbollah Lashes Out at Zionist Regime

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – **Head of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has lashed out at Tel Aviv regime for the recent killing of a number of its members, saying the Middle East region is suffering from "a cancerous growth called Israel."**

Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks on Friday during a speech about the Zionist attack on the Syrian Golan town of Quneitra on January 18.

He described the Zionist regime as a "trauma" and a "bacterium of corruption" which has been plaguing the whole region since 1948.

He recapped crimes against humanity committed by the Israeli regime in the region, referring to the Tel Aviv's brutalities against Palestinians and Syrians.

"Israel has in recent years resorted to the same arrogant practices it had adopted decades ago. It has carried out a bloody campaign against Gaza and violated the most basic of Palestinian rights," Hezbollah leader added.

Nasrallah further referred to the role of Israel in Syria and the regime's support for the Takfiri militants operating against the Syrian government, saying, "In Syria, Israel has been backing the extremist groups and shelling government's positions under various excuses. In Lebanon, it does not recognize resolution 1701 and has committed thousands of violations against its sovereignty."

He emphasized that "Israel believes that it can threaten all armies and governments in the

region whenever it pleases and without being deterred."

Nasrallah also referred to the Arab countries' inaction toward the crimes committed by the Tel Aviv regime, saying, "Israel is taking advantage of the divisions in the region and the complete absence of the stances by the Arab countries, especially the so-called Arab League."

"There is no such thing as an Arab League or an independent Arab stance when it comes to Israel. Arab positions and arms are available when it comes to Yemen, Iraq, and Syria," he said.

Referring to the killing of the members of the resistance movement in Quneitra, on the Syrian section of Golan Heights, Nasrallah said, "Our brothers in Quneitra were killed in a clear

assassination, in a decision taken by Israel."

"Israel has not yet claimed responsibility for the airstrike believing that Hezbollah is weak and would disregard the attack," he added.

Nasrallah also took Israel to task for supporting Takfiri militants in Syria, including the al-Qaeda linked al-Nusra Front, saying, "Thousands of members of al-Nusra Front are present along the border with Israel in the occupied Golan Heights."

The Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "is not at all concerned about the presence of al-Nusra on Israel's border," the Hezbollah leader said, adding, "Israel, however, felt threatened by six Hezbollah members and an Iranian general passing through Quneitra."

Bomb Blast Kills Scores at Shia Mosque in Pakistan



People gather at the site of blast in Shikarpur.

ISLAMABAD (Press TV) – **Latest reports say about 50 people have been killed and dozens injured in a bomb attack on a Shia mosque and religious center in Pakistan's southern province of Sindh.**

Local security officials said the attack occurred when people were performing Friday Prayers in the town of Shikarpur, around 470 kilometers (300 miles) north of the port city of Karachi.

Shaukat Ali Memon, the medical superintendent of Civil Hospital in Shikarpur, gave a death toll of 48

Earlier, Sindh Health Minister Jam Mehtab Daher told AFP that "a total of 40 have been killed in the attack, 46 others have been wounded".

A number of victims are still trapped under debris, after the roof of the mosque collapsed due to the intensive blast.

No group has yet claimed responsibility, but pro-Taliban militants usually take responsibility for similar attacks in the violence-racked country.

This is also the latest deadly incident in a wave of violence against the Shia Muslim community in Pakistan.

Pro-Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants, who are reportedly behind the killings, have imposed an economic blockade against the Shia-dominated population areas across the volatile northwest.

The frequent incidents have raised concerns among human rights groups, while moderate Pakistani Sunni groups have described the issue as a conspiracy against the country.

Taliban leaders, who were toppled in the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan, took refuge in tribal regions of Pakistan and rapidly began to extend their influence from tribes to major towns and cities.

Shia Muslims in Pakistan say the government must take decisive action against the forces involved in the targeted killings. They also accuse Islamabad of failing to provide security for the Muslim community.

The killing of Shias has caused international outrage, with rights groups and regional countries expressing concern over the ongoing deadly violence. Shias make up about a third of Pakistan's population of over 180 million.

Explosions Leave Dozens of Casualties in Iraq



Iraqis inspect the site of a bomb explosion in Baghdad's district of Sadr City.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – **A string of deadly explosions has rocked areas in and around the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, leaving**

dozens of casualties.

Two bombs exploded on Friday in the holy city of Samarra, 125 kilometers north of Baghdad, kill-

ing a number of volunteer forces fighting alongside the Iraqi army against the ISIL Takfiri terrorists.

Another explosion in Sadr City, the mainly Shia district of Baghdad, also left a number of others dead.

There is no word, yet, on the exact number of casualties in the attacks.

Earlier in the day, a twin bombing at a crowded market in Baghdad killed and wounded dozens.

According to police officials speaking on condition of anonymity, the first bomb exploded near carts selling used clothes in the central Bab al-Sharqi area.

A car bomb explosion followed

the first blast two minutes later, targeting people who rushed to help the victims from the first attack.

No group or individual has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks yet.

Earlier this month, the UN said in a statement that violence killed at least 12,282 civilians across the violence-torn Arab state in 2014.

The UN said that more than 1,100 people were killed and over 1,800 others wounded in terror attacks across the violence-stricken Arab country in December 2014, making it the deadliest month since 2008.

NGO: Zionist Regime to Build 430 New Settler Homes

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – **The Zionist regime has approved plans for the construction of some 430 new illegal settler homes on occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank, reports say.**

Daniel Seidemann, head of the Terrestrial Jerusalem group, which monitors Israeli settlement activity on occupied Palestinian land in east Al-Quds, made the announcement on Friday.

The units are expected to be built in four existing settlements across the West Bank. They include 112 in Adam, 156 in Elkana, 78 in Alfei, and 84 in Kiryat Arba.

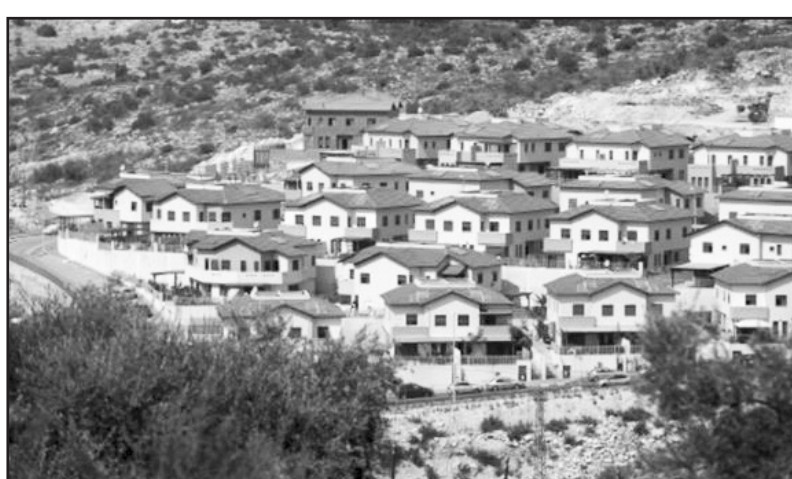
Seidemann linked the planned settlements to the upcoming election in the occupied territories, saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party was seeking to receive settler votes.

More than half a million Israelis live in over 120 illegal settlements built since Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds.

The UN and most countries regard the Israeli settlements as illegal because the territories were captured by Israel in the 1967 war and are hence subject to the Geneva Conventions, which forbids construction on the occupied lands.

Following the announcement, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official Wassel Abu Yusef denounced the move by Tel Aviv, saying the expansion of settlements amounted to a "war crime."

"What the Israelis announced is part of a wider war... against the Palestinian people," Abu Yusef said.



The file photo shows a view of the Zionist settlement of Elkana in the occupied West Bank.

He warned that the Zionist settlement issue would be taken to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon recently said that Palestinians would formally join the ICC on April 1, where it

plans to complain against Zionist crimes.

The ICC has the legal authority to prosecute individuals for war crimes, an issue that Israelis have been repeatedly accused of over the massacre of Palestinians.

Iraq Parl't Cuts Budget Due to Falling Oil Price

BAGHDAD (AFP) – **Iraq's parliament has approved the country's 2015 budget, cutting it by almost USD 6 billion due to falling oil prices.**

The Iraqi lawmakers on Thursday ratified the budget worth 119 trillion Iraqi dinars or USD 99.6 billion, which is lowered from the USD 105.5 billion draft proposed earlier.

The budget is based on USD 56 a barrel of crude, down from USD 70 a barrel estimated in earlier drafts.

Despite lower projected oil revenues, the budget foresees a USD 21.1 billion deficit.

The vote on the 2015 budget marked a step forward as Iraq did not manage to push through a budget last year amid arguments between the Baghdad government and the autonomous Kurdish region over certain issues, including shares of oil sales.

Iraq, which is almost entirely oil-dependent for its revenue, is facing challenges due to falling oil prices over the past few months.

On Friday, oil prices moved down in early trading following slight rises in the previous sessions.

Benchmark Brent crude oil opened at USD 49.15 a barrel, but fell to USD 48.95 later.

Meanwhile, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was traded at USD 44.56 a barrel, almost unchanged.

Oil prices have plunged about 60 percent since June last year.

The steep falls in prices are caused by slowing global economic growth, an oversupply of the black gold and the unlikely chance that the intergovernmental Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) might cut crude output.