

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – A senior leader of the Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, has called on Palestinians living in refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria to launch attacks on the Zionist regime.

Mahmoud Zahar said in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday that branches of the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades,

*In this world there is a real welfare for two kinds of people, one is the person who, when commits a sin, atones for it and the other is anxious to do good as much as possible.*

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Kurdish Fighters Recapture 101 Villages Near Kobani



A Kurdish fighter is seen in this January 30, 2015 photo in Kobani, northern Syria.

BAGHDAD (Press TV) – **Kurdish Peshmerga fighters have recaptured over a hundred villages from the ISIL Takfiri terrorists around Syria's flash-point border town of Kobani.**

According to the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Friday, the Kurdish People's Protection Units, also known as YPG, have recaptured 101 villages around Kobani since seizing the town from IS

on January 26 after four months of fighting.

"They (Kurds) now control territory ranging from 15 to 25 kilometers (nine to 16 miles) from Kobani to the east, west and south," said Rami Abdel Rahman, the director of the UK-based observatory.

Kurdish fighters seized the town on the border with Turkey on January 26 and since then battles to recapture

some 350 nearby villages have continued.

More than 200,000 people have reportedly died in nearly four years of conflict in Syria. In 2014 alone, over 76,000 people, including thousands of children, were killed in the country.

Violence has also upended the lives of many, forcing more than 7.2 million Syrians from their homes, ac-

ording to the United Nations.

The Takfiri terrorist groups, with members from several Western countries, control parts of Syria and Iraq, and have been carrying out horrific acts of violence such as public decapitations and crucifixions against all communities such as Shias, Sunnis, Kurds, and Christians.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Armed Forces, along with volunteers, staged massive operations against the ISIL terrorists' strongholds near the Capital city of Tikrit, in Salahuddin province, killing at least 12 anti-government fighters.

The Iraqi Army, apart from winning the battle against the ISIL in the region, detonated a large number of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in the liberated areas near Tikrit.

The ISIL Takfiri terrorists currently control a shrinking part of Syria and Iraq. They have threatened all communities, including Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians, Ezadi Kurds and others, as they continue their atrocities in Iraq.

Senior Iraqi officials have blamed Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and some Persian Gulf Arab states for the growing terrorism in their country.

The ISIL has links with Saudi intelligence and is believed to be indirectly supported by the Zionist regime.

## UN Experts Urge Bahrain to Release Jailed Opposition Chief

MANAMA (FNA) – **United Nations rights experts urged Bahrain to free opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman, on trial for allegedly trying to overthrow the country's regime.**

Salman, 49, was arrested December 28, shortly after he was re-elected head of Bahrain's main opposition party Al Wafaq, AFP reported Wednesday.

He was charged with trying to incite regime change, and was denied bail when his trial opened last week.

"The charges appear to stem from the government's dissatisfaction with opinions that Sheikh Salman expressed in public speeches and televised interviews, in which he called for the establishment of a democratic regime and for government accountability," the five UN experts said in a statement.

"If this is indeed the case, his arrest and prosecution would amount to a breach of his fundamental human rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of religion or belief," they said, demanding that the government "clarify the situation".

The UN's top experts on those freedoms and on arbitrary detention and the situation of human rights defenders also cautioned that Salman may not be getting a fair trial, pointing out that his lawyer was "allegedly not allowed to examine the evidence to pre-

pare for his defense".

Salman's arrest has sparked near-daily protests across the kingdom.

"Particularly worrying are recent reports that indicate that peaceful demonstrations following his arrest were disbanded by the authorities, including through the use of force," the experts said, noting reports that at least 150 people had been arrested and some 90 injured during the demonstrations and in clashes with the police.

"We urge the government of Bahrain to promptly release all those who have been detained for peaceful expression of their views," the UN experts said.

They also criticized Bahrain for revoking the citizenship of 72 people, in a move they described as "yet another attempt by the government of Bahrain to clamp down on opponents".

Anti-government protesters have been holding peaceful demonstrations across Bahrain since mid-February 2011, calling for an end to the al-Khalifa dynasty.

Violence against the defenseless people escalated after a Saudi-led conglomerate of police, security and military forces from the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) member states - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar - were dispatched to the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom on March 2011, to help Manama crack down on peaceful protesters.

## Clashes Between Army Troops, Militants Kill 8 In South Yemen



Yemeni army soldiers are seen in this file photo.

SANAA (AP) – **At least five government soldiers and three suspected al-Qaeda militants have been killed in a fierce shootout between Yemen's army and a group of terrorists in the country's southern port city of Aden.**

"The clashes between the army and about 30 well-armed men took place in Mansoura district in Aden, near a pro-independence protest camp, leaving eight people killed," Colonel Khaled al-Gharbany, a military official, said on Thursday evening.

He added, "The clashes erupted as the militants attempted to take control over an army site located near the camp."

Al-Gharbany further noted that unidentified attackers are still besieging the military site, while army reinforcements have arrived at the scene.

The development comes a day after five soldiers lost their lives and several others sustained injuries, when a bomb explosion struck a military base in Yemen's cen-

tral province of al-Bayda.

Over the past months, al-Qaeda militants have frequently carried out attacks on Yemen's security forces. The militants have been also engaged in battle with the Shia Ansarullah fighters.

The central government in Sana'a has so far failed in efforts to rid the country of the terrorist threat.

Ansarullah fighters, who played a major role in ousting Yemen's former dictator, Ali Abdullah Saleh, have intervened to fill the vacuum and have driven al-Qaeda militants out of many areas in the country.

Ali al-Emad, an Ansarullah leader, recently said Saudi Arabia supports armed al-Qaeda extremists in order to control oil and service centers in the Yemeni provinces of Marib and Hadhramaut.

He added that Riyadh seeks to prevent changes in Yemen for fear of possible impact on the ongoing policies pertaining to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

## After Pilot Immolation Jordan Pledges to 'Eradicate' ISIL

AMMAN (Dispatches) – **Jordan has pledged to "eradicate" the Takfiri ISIL group after the immolation of a Jordanian pilot held hostage by the terrorist group.**

"We're going to go after them and we will eradicate them.... We are at the forefront. This is our fight," Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh said on Friday.

On Thursday, Jordan's fighter jets carried out a series of new retaliatory air strikes against the hideouts of the ISIL terrorists currently operating in Syria and Iraq after the ruthless killing of the Jordanian pilot,

Moaz al-Kassasbeh, at the hands of the ISIL last Tuesday.

Judeh said the air raids heralded "the beginning of" Jordan's "retaliation over this horrific and brutal murder of our brave young pilot."

Jordan is part of a so-called US-led military coalition that has been purportedly bombing terrorist targets in both Syria and Iraq since last year.

"We're upping the ante. We're going after them wherever they are, with everything that we have. But it's not the beginning, and it's certainly not the end," Judeh said.

A video released last Tuesday showed 26-year-old Kassasbeh dressed in an orange jumpsuit and surrounded by flames of fire inside a metal cage.

The pilot had been captured last December by ISIL terrorists when his plane went down in northern Syria during a mission against the terrorist group.

Jordanian King Abdullah II pledged to step up the fight against the ISIL and other terrorist groups.

Since late September last year, the US and its allies have been conducting airstrikes against the terror-

ist group inside Syria without any authorization from Damascus or a UN mandate. The airstrikes are an extension of the US-led aerial campaign against ISIL positions in Iraq.

Washington says it is striking ISIL positions in both Iraq and Syria, but there is skepticism on both sides of the border about the real objective of the airstrikes.

The US and its regional allies had been the leading supporters of the ISIL and other affiliated terrorist groups operating against the government of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

## 6 Afghan Police Killed, 8 Wounded in Taliban Attacks

KABUL (AFP) – **Taliban militants have killed six Afghan police officers and wounded eight others in two separate assaults in southern Afghanistan, officials say.**

At least two police officers were killed and five others injured when a car bomber hit a convoy in the southern province of Helmand, said the provincial governor spokesman, Omar Zwak, on Tuesday.

"The incident occurred in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital (of Helmand Province), when the police forces were going to their checkpoints outside of the city," said Zwak.



Afghan security personnel are seen patrolling in Dangam district near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Kunar Province.

Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Meanwhile, four other police-

men were killed and three others wounded in a separate attack in Charcheno district on Monday, said

Gulab Khan, the head of Criminal Investigation Office in the south-central province of Uruzgan.

The attack was purportedly carried out by Taliban militants. However, there has been no claim of responsibility for that assault.

According to Afghan officials, no civilian was harmed in the Monday attack.

Afghanistan continues to grapple with insecurity weeks after the US-led combat mission ended on December 31, 2014. At least 13,500 foreign forces, mainly from the United States, have remained in the country in what Washington is calling a support mission.