

Terrorists Release 4 Lebanese Forces, Police Officer

BEIRUT (Press TV) – The al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front terrorist group has released five Lebanese security forces captured a few weeks ago near the Syrian border. The men, four Lebanese soldiers and a police officer, were among dozens of Lebanese forces taken hostage when foreign-backed terrorists infiltrating from Syria took over the border town of Arsal for five days in early August before withdrawing toward the Syrian frontier.

Thought for Today

Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.

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Syrian Army Gains Ground in Golan Heights



The Syrian army is gaining ground in its fight against Takfiri terrorists in the Golan Heights.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian army is gaining ground in its fight against Takfiri terrorists from the al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front in the Golan Heights.

Heavy clashes erupted on Monday between the army and the foreign-backed terrorists over the

control of the Quneitra crossing operated by the United Nations peacekeepers.

Persistent small arms fire and explosions could be heard on the Israeli-occupied side of the Golan Height. Reports say at least one army tank was involved in the op-

eration.

A contingent of 44 UN peacekeepers was abducted by the terrorists after the insurgents occupied the crossing on Thursday.

Fijian Army Commander Brigadier General Mosese Tikoitoga said on Sunday that talks are un-

derway to release the soldiers serving with the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has strongly censured the attack on UNDOF positions and the detention of its peacekeeping forces.

Earlier, the Syrian army advanced on the Jobar neighborhood of the capital Damascus, killing a large number of terrorists.

Government forces have made major gains in their battle against Takfiri groups across the country in recent months.

According to estimates by the United Nations, over 190,000 people have been killed and millions displaced due to the turmoil fueled by the Western-backed terrorists in Syria since March 2011.

Since November 2012, CIA operatives and US Special Operations forces have been secretly providing the terrorists with training on the use of anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons in a secret base in Jordan, according to several reports.

Analysts believe the crisis in Syria will backfire on the West as terrorists are now returning to the countries they came from, including those in Europe.

Turkey Detains Nearly Two Dozen Police Officers



Recep Tayyip Erdogan inspects a parade of police officers in Turkey.

ANKARA (AFP) – Turkish authorities have detained some two dozen officers in new nationwide raids over an alleged plot to overthrow the government.

Local media reports say at least 20 police officers were arrested over an alleged plot to topple the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Sources say police conducted early morning raids in 16 cities across the country. Among those detained is Yakup Saygili, the former chief of the police anti-fraud unit.

Moreover, arrest warrants have been issued for as many as 34 officers. This is the fourth wave of such raids since July.

Turkish authorities have so far detained more than 100 serving and former police officers over alleged corruption and abuse of office.

The detainees are accused of fabricating a probe as a cover for wiretaps

on top officials including Erdogan, cabinet members and journalists since 2010.

Prosecutors say nearly 2300 people were illegally wiretapped over three years.

Many of the officers were removed from their posts in the government purging earlier this year.

Meanwhile, Erdogan says he will seek the extradition of the US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom he accuses of plotting to topple his government with corruption accusations and damaging social media leaks.

Gulen's Hizmet (Service) movement was an important supporter of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) when it came to power in 2002. The alliance, however, shattered after dozens of Erdogan's political and business allies were arrested in police raids in a graft probe last December.

Iraqi Forces Retake Sulaiman Bek Town From Terrorists

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Latest reports say the Iraqi army has retaken the northern town of Sulaiman Bek from the ISIL Takfiri terrorists.

Iraqi military sources say the government troops backed by Kurdish forces and Shia volunteer fighters retook the town from the ISIL cult on Monday.

"Sulaiman Bek is under the control of the combined forces," media outlets quoted a senior army official as saying.

The ISIL terrorists had turned the key town in Tuz Khurmatu to a key stronghold in Salahuddin Province

for 11 weeks.

Security sources say the town is still a dangerous place because of the bombs planted by the terrorists.

Reports say the ongoing fierce fighting between the two sides has now shifted to the nearby village of Yankaja.

The capture of Sulaiman Bek comes a day after the military troops finalized their grip over the neighboring town of Amerli.

Amerli residents had put up fierce resistance against the terrorists despite severe shortages of food and water.

The residents of this small Shia Turkmen community about 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad have been living under the ISIL siege for more than two months.

UN had earlier warned that Shia Turkmen residents of the volatile town who are besieged by the ISIL Takfiri terrorists could be massacred if urgent action was not taken to rescue them.

The ISIL terrorists have committed heinous crimes and threatened all communities, including Shias, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians and Yazidi Kurds, during their advances in Iraq.

Bahrainis Call for Downfall of Al Khalifa Regime



Bahraini protesters once again call for the downfall of the ruling Al Khalifa regime.

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahraini protesters have taken to the streets to demand the overthrow of the ruling Al Khalifa regime.

The new demonstrations were held on Sunday to mark a year since a teenage protester was shot dead by Manama regime forces.

The 14-year-old Ali Jawad al-Sheikh was killed at a mosque while attending religious ceremonies on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

The protesters also called on the Bahraini authorities to release all the prisoners jailed over participating in demonstrations.

Since mid-February 2011, thousands of protesters have held numerous demonstrations in the streets of Bahrain, calling for the Al Khalifa royal family to relinquish power.

On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist the Bahraini government in its

crackdown on peaceful protesters. The crackdown also left scores of people dead.

Manama has imprisoned thousands of people for attending demonstrations over the past three years.

Human rights groups have voiced concern over the treatment of the Bahraini activists kept in prisons and the atrocities committed by authorities and security forces in the government crackdown.

Meanwhile, an appeals court in Bahrain has upheld a controversial 10-year jail term against 25-year-old photojournalist, Ahmed Humaidan.

Bahraini judicial sources said on Sunday the country's High Court of Appeals ruled against the imprisoned photographer.

Bahraini regime officials say Humaidan and 28 other Shias were sentenced to 10 years behind bars after being accused of involvement in an attack against a police station in 2012.

This comes as several human rights groups have been calling for the release of Humaidan. The US-based Human Rights Watchdog (HRW) says Humaidan was merely covering the anti-government protests that erupted in mid-February 2011.

In June, deputy director HRW's Middle East and North Africa, Joe Stork, said that "throwing photographers in jail isn't going to keep either the protests or the accounts of what happens in Bahrain out of the world's sight".

Nearly a dozen local and international organizations have recently signed an open letter, calling on the Al Khalifa regime to dismiss all charges against Humaidan.

Also on Sunday, anti-government protesters gathered to call for the immediate release of the imprisoned photographer. The demonstrators released sky lanterns and held placards in the island of Sitra in support of the jailed reporter.

UK-based rights group Amnesty International has also repeatedly voiced concerns over Bahrain's crackdown on anti-regime protesters.

A large number of activists have been given long jail terms or the death penalty for their opposition to the Al Khalifa regime. However, none of the measures have prevented the opposition from pursuing their democratic demands.

Since mid-February 2011, thousands of anti-regime protesters have staged numerous demonstrations in the streets of Bahrain, calling for the Al Khalifa royal family to relinquish power.

Police, Anti-Gov't Protesters Clash in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (AP) – Anti-government protesters have clashed with police forces in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, hours after the army called for a peaceful resolution to the political crisis in the country.

Fresh clashes erupted on Monday morning as more than 3,000 demonstrators armed with rocks and wooden clubs sought to march on the official residence of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Protesters pelted riot police with stones and some smashed up motorbikes with wooden clubs.

Police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd but the heavy rain in Islamabad appeared to make it ineffective.

Pakistan's army has called for a political solution to the current standoff between Islamabad and opposition protesters.

"The situation should be resolved politically without wasting any time and without recourse to violent means," the Pakistani military said in a statement issued late on Sunday.

However, it also warned that if the crisis is not resolved politically, the army will have its own role to play in maintaining security.

On Saturday night, thousands of protesters trying to storm Sharif's residence in the capital, Islamabad, clashed with riot police. Three people were killed and hundreds injured in the incident.

Pakistan has been the scene of anti-government protests since August 14.

The opposition protesters, led by Pakistani politician, Imran Khan, and cleric, Muhammad Tahir ul-Qadri, accuse Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of corruption and rigging last year's general elections.

The Pakistani government says it is trying to re-open negotiations with opposition groups.

Information Minister Pervez Rashid said on Sunday that Islamabad remains open to restart talks with the opposition to end the crisis peacefully.