

18 Suspected ISIL Terrorists Indicted in Lebanon



Lebanon indicts 18 suspected ISIL terrorists for trying to set up an emirate in the country's north.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon has indicted 18 suspected members of the ISIL Takfiri terrorist group on charges of planning to set up an emirate in the north of the Arab country.

The suspects, who were not identified and whose nationalities remain unknown, are also accused of attacks on Lebanese army soldiers besides plotting to occupy villages in the northern Dinniyeh region to establish an emirate. The charges are punish-

able by the death penalty. Fifteen of the individuals are on the run. Among the suspects is 46-year-old Ahmad Salim Miqati, who is a high-level operative for the ISIL; he goes by the noms de

guerre Abu Bakr and Abu al-Hoda.

He is accused of “taking part in operations against the army, inciting the murder of its troops, stirring sectarian strife and possessing arms and explosives.”

Miqati’s arrest last week sparked three days of deadly clashes between Lebanese armed forces and gunmen in Lebanon’s northern port city of Tripoli, situated 85 kilometers (53 miles) north of the capital Beirut.

On Wednesday, Lebanese security forces exchanged fire with al-Qaeda-linked terrorists in the Bekaa Valley near the border with Syria. Local sources said the clashes erupted outside the towns of Deir al-Ghazal and Qusaya on Wednesday when al-Nusra Front terrorists tried to infiltrate into Lebanon from Syria.

Over the past months, Lebanon has been suffering from terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorists as well as random rocket attacks, which are viewed as a spillover of the conflict in Syria.

Syria has been gripped by deadly violence since 2011 with the ISIL Takfiri terrorists currently controlling parts of it mostly in the east and north.

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opposition to their takeover of territory west of Baghdad, security sources and witnesses said.

Two mass graves were discovered on Thursday containing some of the 300 members of the Sunni Muslim Abu Nimr tribe that ISIL had seized this week. The captives, men aged between 18 and 55, had been shot at close range, witnesses said.

The bodies of more than 70 Abu Nimr men were dumped near the town of Hit in the Sunni heartland Anbar province, according to witnesses who said most of the victims were members of the police or an anti-ISIL militia called Sahwa (Awakening).

The insurgents had ordered men from the tribe to leave their villages and go to Hit, 130 km (80 miles) west of Baghdad, promising them “safe passage”, tribal leaders said. They were then seized and shot.

A mass grave near the city of Ramadi, also in Anbar province, contained 150 members of the same tribe, security officials said.

The Awakening militia were established with the encouragement of the United States to fight Al-Qaeda during the U.S. “surge” offensive of 2006-2007.

Sheikh Naeem al-Ga’oud, one of the leaders of the Abu Nimr tribe, said: “The Americans are all talk and no action.”

ISIL, an Al-Qaeda offshoot, has beheaded or shot dead anyone it captures who opposes its ideology. Its gunmen systematically executed about 600 inmates from Badoush Prison near the city of Mosul in June, Human Rights Watch said on Thursday.

Citing the accounts of 15 survivors, it said the group singled out Shia prisoners, forced them to kneel along the edge of a nearby ravine and shot them with assault rifles and automatic weapons.

How Much ... (Continued From Page One)

In 2013, EU countries made 5.4 billion Euros (\$6.8 billion) worth of exports to Iran. Emerging market experts make breathless comparisons to Russia just after the Berlin Wall’s fall. “Iran,” said Charles Robertson, global chief economist at Renaissance Capital, “is the biggest opportunity of the next 10 years.”

“It’s easy to see why it could be. New markets of nearly 80 million people are rare indeed. Rarer still are emerging markets with oil and gas, educated work-forces and lively stock-markets — all humming with pent-up potential from Iran’s thirty-five years as an economic pariah,” the Time wrote.

Iranian boosters reject comparisons with Vietnam and Burma, other newly open economies. “We like to think of it as Turkey on steroids,” quipped an Iranian investor at the Europe-Iran Forum, a recent London conference that brought together European investors and Iranian businessmen.

But challenges remain. If the Forum was designed to showcase Iran’s possibilities, it also underscored the hurdles in tapping them. Few business conferences ban “negotiation, deal-making, or commercial transactions”, but this

one did, mindful of the Obama’s promise to “come down like a ton of bricks” on anyone breaking sanctions, it said.

The former foreign ministers of Britain and France delivered speeches — even as the British Foreign Office reiterated to Reuters that its policy remained “not to encourage trade with Iran”. Sir Martin Sorrell, CEO of the world’s largest marketing group, WPP, gave the keynote — though some pro-Israel groups had petitioned him not to.

The effect on banks has undermined the idea that sanctions aren’t meant to hurt the Iranian people, the Time quoted one participant at the forum as saying.

In a speech last week, the U.S. chief negotiator Wendy Sherman urged Iran to “finish the job,” while U.S. officials say President Obama may try and bypass a vote on suspending sanctions in Congress, where support for the occupying regime of Israel is strongest, the New York Times recently reported. Congress, however, may not allow the President to bypass it.

“It’s the last large untapped market in the world,” says Ramin Rabii, of Iranian investment firm Turquoise Partners. “The future is very exciting.” The only question that remains — at least until November 24th — is whether all the hurdles can be overcome.

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Previous incidents of acid attacks in Iran were for personal reasons against both women and men and usually by former lovers. The Isfahan incidents are thought to be the first time acid has been used in Iran in apparently random attacks.

Although assaults with acid are a worldwide phenomenon, it is a particular problem in countries including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Uganda and Colombia. Acid attacks have also been reported in western countries such as the UK and Australia.

According to the Acid Survivors Trust International, a London-based charity, there are about 1,500 acid attacks per year, although the true figure is likely to be far higher. ASTI has estimated that 80% of victims of such attacks are women, while one study in Bangladesh found that nearly 60% were 10-19 years old.

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created obstacles to economic and social rights, Larjani said.

Syrian ambassador Hussam Eddin Aala praised Iran’s efforts to improve its legal framework and urged the country to “continue efforts to highlight the negative repercussions of both terrorism and unilateral coercive measures”.

Britain, Australia, Canada, France and the United States were among those speaking out at alleged rights violations in Iran in the debate, which was part of the UN council’s regular examination of every UN member state every four years.

Over Palestine Recognition Zionist Regime Recalls Envoy to Sweden

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Tel Aviv has recalled its ambassador to Stockholm after Sweden’s official recognition of the Palestinian state.

The Zionist regime’s foreign ministry announced that it has recalled the regime’s ambassador to Stockholm for consultations with regard to the Scandinavian country’s decision to recognize the state of Palestine.

Meanwhile, the Zionist Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman lashed

out at Sweden for what he called the “miserable decision that strengthens the extremist elements and Palestinian rejectionism.”

“It’s a shame that the government of Sweden chose to take a declaratory step that only causes harm,” added the Israeli official.

This is while Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has praised Sweden for making the “brave and historic” decision.

“All countries of the world that

are still hesitant to recognize our right to an independent Palestinian state based on 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem (al-Quds) as its capital, [should] follow Sweden’s lead,” Nabil Abu Rudeina, a spokesman for the Palestinian national unity government, quoted Abbas as saying.

Sweden is the first major European country to officially recognize the state of Palestine, joining 130 other nations, including Hungary, Poland

and Slovakia that have already made a similar decision.

Palestinians are seeking to create an independent state on the territories of the West Bank, East al-Quds, and the Gaza Strip and are demanding that Israel withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Zionist regime, however, has refused to return to the 1967 borders and is unwilling to discuss the issue of al-Quds.

US Drone Strike Kills Four in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Press TV) – At least four people have been killed in an assassination drone strike carried out by the US in Pakistan’s South Waziristan tribal region.

Pakistani security officials on Thursday said the incident took place earlier in the day in the village of Nargas, located in South Waziristan’s Azam Warsak district.

Several other people were report-

edly injured in the attack as well.

Reports say the US drone fired two missiles at a compound in Birmal and destroyed it.

According to officials, the victims were all foreigners. Although sources say an Arab national was among those killed, the nationalities of the rest of the victims are yet to be identified.

Four people were killed in a similar

US drone attack in North Waziristan’s Shawal area on October 11.

A recent report by the British Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) released earlier this month showed that only 84 people out of the 2,379 killed in US drone strikes in Pakistan were identified as al-Qaeda militants.

These figures are in clear contradiction with claims made by US Sec-

retary of State John Kerry last May when he said, “The only people we fire at are confirmed terror targets, at the highest level. We don’t just fire a drone at somebody we think is a terrorist.”

The US claims its drone attacks target militants, but local officials and witnesses maintain that civilians have been the main victims of the attacks over the past few years.

China Hosts Int’l Conference on Afghanistan

BEIJING (AP) – China is hosting an international conference on Afghanistan’s security and reconstruction as US-led foreign forces prepare to leave the war-torn country by the end of this year.

The annual event, known as the Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan, kicked off in the Chinese capital Beijing on Friday and is headed by newly elected Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

The conference brings Afghanistan and China together with over

a dozen member states and observers, including Iran and the United States.

During the event, the Afghan president called on the country’s opposition and even the Taliban militant group to join a peace process and “enter Afghan dialogue.”

Ghani also urged Kabul’s international partners to support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang also said the international

community should respect Kabul’s “sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity” and avoid interfering “with its internal affairs and support Afghanistan’s efforts to realize security and stability.”

Earlier this week, China said it would provide USD 330 million in grants, along with professional training, and some 3,500 scholarships to help Afghanistan over the next five years.

Beijing is a major investor in Afghanistan. Kabul enjoys an estimat-

ed USD 1 trillion worth of mineral resources.

China shares a 76-kilometer border with Afghanistan’s remote, mountainous Wakhan Corridor along its far western Xinjiang region.

Kabul has been dealing with ongoing violence since the United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 as part of Washington’s so-called war on terror. The unrest continues despite the removal of the Taliban from power.