

DAMASCUS (FNA) – The Syrian Army said minutes ago that its forces and Hezbollah fighters continued to push the terrorists back from more lands in the Northern part of Aleppo province and won back one more key village near Nubl and al-Zahra.

The Syrian government forces stormed the terrorists' defense lines in the Southwestern part of the small town of al-Zahra, drove the terrorists back from the battlefield and liberated the village of al-Tamourah.

A man hypocritically started praising Imam Ali, though he had no faith in him and Imam Ali hearing these praises from him said "I am less than what you tell about me but more than what you think about me".

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# "Terrorists in Syria Get New Missiles From Foreign Backers"

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Takfiri terrorists in Syria have reportedly received new supplies of Grad missiles from their foreign supporters in the face of their recent losses against the Syrian army.

Two terrorist commanders have told Reuters that their forces in Syria have been provided in "excellent quantities" with the ground-to-ground missiles that have a range of 20 kilometers (12 miles).

"It is excellent additional fire power for us," one of the sources was quoted as saying.

The other terrorist commander said the missiles were being used to target Syrian army positions beyond the front line. "They give the factions longer reach," he said.

The rise in foreign support for the terror groups come as Syrian armed forces, backed by the Russian air force, are advancing against terrorists on several fronts, particularly in the northwestern province of Aleppo near the Turkish border.

Syrian soldiers have managed to cut major terrorist supply routes from Turkey, which has long severed as the main gateway for transit of new terrorist recruits and weap-



A terrorist stands on the back of an armed vehicle in Eastern Ghouta near Damascus.

ons in to the Arab country.

Sources on the ground say the Takfiri terrorists operating in Aleppo are on the brink of total collapse in the face of army advances.

Russian servicemen prepare a Russian Sukhoi Su-30SM fighter jet before departure for a mission at a military base in Syria's Latakia on Dec. 16, 2015. ©AFP

The Saudi-backed Syrian opposition has also asked for supplies of anti-aircraft missiles.

"If we had these, this would solve the problem of Syria," opposition spokesman Salim al-Muslat said of the weapons. He said surface-to-air missiles would help them confront Russian aircraft.

"We really guarantee that they do not go anywhere - that they will be in the hands of the moderates under the eye of our friends, whether European or American," Muslat said.

The United States, along with its allies, has long been supporting

what it calls "moderate" terrorists fighting to topple the Assad government.

Some of such terrorist groups have also received military training overseen by the CIA in Syria's neighboring countries.

The Pentagon has on several occasions airdropped weapons for terrorists. Some of the weapons have ended up in the hands of ISIL terrorists.

Damascus has denounced US classification of "terrorists" to moderate and extremist, saying whoever takes up arms against the Syrian nation is a terrorist.

On Friday, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad vowed to retake the entire Arab state from foreign-backed terrorists.

The Syrian leader said it would be possible to "put an end to this problem in less than a year" if all terrorists' supply routes from Turkey, Jordan and Iraq were cut.

The foreign-sponsored conflict in Syria, which flared in March 2011, has claimed the lives of some 470,000 people and left 1.9 million injured, according to the Syrian Center for Policy Research.

## Iraq Deploys Forces in Preparation for Mosul Liberation

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Hundreds of Iraqi forces have arrived at a base southeast of the northern city of Mosul in preparation for a major operation aimed at retaking the city from ISIL terrorists.

Iraqi officers announced the deployment at the town of Makhmour, located around 70 kilometers (45 miles) from Mosul, on Friday. The Iraqi army's 15 Division has contributed the troops to the mission.

They said the military seeks to reinforce the number to 4,500. Additional forces are to include Sunni tribal fighters.

"Once we complete all the preparations, we will officially announce the date for the start of Mosul operations," military spokesman Brigadier-General Yahya Rasool said.

Mosul was the first city to be cap-

live, and other possible complications mean the Iraqi forces would have a much harder task to accomplish.

The Iraqi military has reportedly set up a radio station at the base in Makhmour to keep residents informed of military developments in the area.

"This station is a way of communicating with the people of Nineveh and broadcasting the army's voice," said Sergeant Salem Mahmud, who is in charge of operating it.

"It is intended to reassure the people, to tell them that they will be liberated from ISIL," he said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi also told a security conference in Berlin that his government was determined to bring an end to the existence of Takfiri ISIL terrorists in the country this year.



An Iraqi soldier stands guard at the entrance of the Nineveh base in Makhmour.

tured by ISIL in Iraq and has proven the Takfiri group's biggest conquest since June 2014, when it started ravaging the country.

The liberation operation would be part of ongoing efforts to flush the terrorists out of the entire Nineveh Province, of which Mosul is the capital.

Iraqi forces are buoyed by their recapture of Ramadi, the capital of the sprawling Anbar Province, in December.

However, the sheer size of the Mosul region, where the government believes around a million people still

Commander of the US-led force in the region Lieutenant General Sean MacFarland has said he didn't think Iraqi forces would be able to recapture Mosul until the end of 2016 or early 2017 at the earliest.

Several Iraqi officials have criticized US bombings of Takfiri positions, saying they always fell short of dealing a serious impact.

The Takfiri ISIL terrorist group is also active in neighboring Syria. It is committing heinous crimes against the civilian population in both Arab countries.

## Turkey May Act to Reverse Syrian Army Gain Near Border

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Ankara is likely to take action to counter the Syrian military and allied groups on choking up a supply link on which terrorists relied to get weapons and logistics.

Syrian troops and Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters have retaken the town of Azaz, located to the northwest of Aleppo, prompting Saudi Arabia and Turkey to hint at deployment of ground forces to the region.

Asked if Ankara might act to reverse the gains, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Friday, "Wait for the next few days and you will have the answer," Turkish paper Hurriyet reported.

Analysts say major terrorist groups are on the verge of total

collapse in Syria's strategic Aleppo province in the face of army advances.

Most of Aleppo's eastern neighborhoods are now controlled by government forces and allied fighters. Takfiri groups, including Ahrar al-Sham and al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra Front, along with smaller terrorist outfits, are mainly active in the western parts of the city.

Aleppo's liberation would deal one of the most serious blows to terrorist groups that have been fighting there over the past five years.

Fabrice Balanche, a visiting fellow at the Washington Institute think tank, said terrorists could no longer cling to their ambition "to make Aleppo and the (neighbor-

ing) Idlib province the base of a 'free Syria.'"

"That's over," he told the AFP news agency recently.

Terrorists have relied on the Azaz corridor to supply Aleppo with munitions and other fighting materiel which itself is covertly supplied from Turkey.

The loss of this route means that terrorists within the Aleppo urban area will have to source their supplies from much further afield, hampering their ability to rapidly re-arm.

Following the recent losses, there have been reports that Turkey is planning to intervene directly in the Syria conflict.

Such reports are driven by repeated assertions by Turkish government officials that they plan to

establish a safe zone in northern Syria for civilians and likely favored terrorist groups.

Last week, the Russian Defense Ministry said it had seen evidence of "a growing number of signs of hidden preparation of the Turkish armed forces for active action in Syria."

It published a number of satellite images which Russia claims showed a build-up of Turkish armed forces along certain areas of the Syrian border.

While these images are far from conclusive, when combined with earlier evidence of Turkey clearing mines along its Syrian border, they show at the very least that Ankara is keeping its options open with respect to military intervention.

### FM Jubeir:

## Improving Saudi Women's Rights Takes Time



Saudi women arrive to attend Jenadriyah Culture Festival on the outskirts of Riyadh, Feb. 8, 2016.

RIYADH (Press TV) – Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir has defended Saudi Arabia's dismal women rights record, saying the kingdom needs more time to improve the situation.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference on Friday, Jubeir claimed that the kingdom has made progress on female education but the case of permitting women to drive needs more work.

"When it comes to issues like women's driving, this is not a religious issue, it's a societal issue," Jubeir said.

He compared the issue of women's rights in Saudi Arabia to the one in the US, saying women were allowed to vote 100 years after America's independence while the first female parliamentary speaker was elected a century later.

"I'm not saying 'Give us 200 years'. I'm saying 'be patient'," Jubeir said

"We hope that in the modern world ... this process is accelerated, but things take time. We can't expect to rush things."

Jubeir said Saudi women now make up 55 per-

cent of college students compared to 1960 when the kingdom had no schools for female citizens.

Riyadh has come under intense pressure by the activist groups for mistreating women. International rights groups say the Saudi regime deliberately deny women basic rights.

The kingdom is the only country in the world that prohibits women from driving. The ban stems from a religious fatwa imposed by Wahhabi clerics. If women get behind the wheel in the kingdom, they may be arrested, sent to court and even flogged.

In 2012, the then Saudi King, Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, announced that women would be given the right to vote and run in municipal elections for the first time in the country. He also appointed 30 women to the country's top advisory Shura Council before his death in January 2015.

## 40th Day Phenomenon

By: Kayhan Int'l Political Desk

Probably the Saudi King and his aides believed that execution was the proper solution for getting rid of Ayatollah Sheik Nimar, the prominent and influential Shia leader of their country.

And seemingly they had not thought about or were aware of the 40th day celebrations observed by Shia Muslims for their martyrs. Now the Saudi authorities are facing the 40th Day Phenomenon.

Protests in Hejaz and other Persian Gulf littoral states are being held. Protesters chant: "Death to Al Saud" and "Down with the House of Saud".

It is also reported that there are substantial numbers of Sunni Muslim youths as well in the protest rallies.

Though late but one is sure that the Saudi rulers must be repenting for beheading an innocent person. As a matter of fact the crime they committed was a demonstration of sheer stupidity - - that is going to cost them dearly.