

# Zionist Army Confirms Troops Looting in Gaza war

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – New reports have emerged, showing that three Zionist troops, who participated in the occupying regime's latest war on the Gaza Strip last summer, looted a building in the besieged Palestinian territory back then.

Two of the soldiers had reportedly taken an amount of money equivalent to USD 605 and another one helped them do that.

Confirming the report of the looting, the Israeli army claimed that it indicted the three after the soldiers' commander reported on what they had done.

An Israeli report in March said that more than 350 Israeli soldiers who took part in the deadly Zionist war had received treatment for symptoms related to post-traumatic stress, including disorientation, low productivity, and recurring nightmares.

At least 10 Israeli soldiers were also reported to have committed suicide last year, including four who had taken part in the latest Gaza war.

The regime started airstrikes against the besieged Palestinian territory in early July 2014 and later expanded its military campaign with a ground invasion. The war ended in late August that year.

Nearly 2,200 Palestinians, including 577 children, were killed in Israel's 50-day onslaught and over 11,100 others, including nearly 3,380 children, 2,088 women and 410 elderly people, were injured. Tens of Israelis were also killed during the war.

Moreover, the UN said up to 1,500 children were orphaned in the Israeli war.

Last September, Palestinian experts said it costs more than USD



Zionist troops near the Gaza Strip

7.5 billion to rebuild the besieged Gaza Strip and that the process would take "five years if Israel removed its blockade on Gaza entirely."

The experts estimated the direct

losses caused by the Israeli onslaught at USD 4.4 billion. They also believe that a total sum of USD 3.02 billion is needed for the development of the enclave, which has been blockaded since June 2007.

## Terrorist Rocket Attacks Kill 6 Civilians in Aleppo



A Syrian man stands on top of rubble following a rocket attack on Bab al-Hadid neighborhood of the northern city of Aleppo.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Rocket attacks carried out by Takfiri terrorists have claimed the lives of six civilians in the northern Syr-

ian city of Aleppo.

According to a Sunday report by the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), the terrorists launched

rocket attacks at al-Neil Street in Aleppo city, leaving three civilians dead, including a father and his daughter.

Another civilian was injured in the assault, which caused massive damage in the area.

Two other shells also targeted Aleppo's Shihan area, killing a civilian and injuring four others.

The city was also struck by another rocket attack, in which two were killed and fifty others injured in Aleppo's two neighborhoods of al-Tilal and al-Qassr al-Baladi.

Earlier in the day, 34 people lost their lives in aerial airstrikes on a marketplace in the town of Darkush near the Turkish border.

"The toll is expected to rise because there are dozens of people injured and many in serious condition," said Rami Abdel Rahman,

the director of the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The recent fatalities came only two days after the United Nations said it would host separate talks with warring sides in Syria next month in a bid to put an end to more than four years of conflict in the Arab country.

Ahmad Fawzi, a communication director with the UN, told journalists on Friday that invitations had been sent out to all parties who could help end the crisis, including different Syrian factions as well as regional and international players.

Syria has been grappling with a deadly crisis since March 2011. The violence fueled by Takfiri groups has so far claimed the lives of over 222,000 people, according to the UK-based Observatory.

## Prince Talal: King Salman Incapable of Ruling Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (FNA) – Talal bin Abdulaziz, brother of Saudi King Salman, warned of widening gaps in the Al Saud family, and underlined that his brother is incapable of ruling the Arab monarchy.

"Differences are emerging in the Saudi power circle and Prince Talal has warned of emerging gaps by saying that King Salman is incapable of administering the country," a source close to Prince Talal told the Arabic-language Al-Manar TV.

The source said Prince Talal be-

lieves that "Saudi Defense Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman and Prince Mohammad bin Nayef influence King Salman's decisions the same way that (former Saudi king) Abdullah bin Abdulaziz obeyed whatever the then Saudi intelligence chief, Prince bin Bandar, and Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said".

In late January, Saudi King Abdullah died and his brother Salman became king and two months later ordered the Saudi aggression against Yemen.

Other sources had also earlier this month disclosed that gaps had widened among the members of the Al Saud ruling family as a result of the war on Yemen.

"The differences have intensified in the Al Saud dynasty over the Saudi-led airstrikes on Yemen," Senior member of Ansarullah movement Hossein al-Ezzi told FNA.

Al-Ezzi noted that several regions of Saudi Arabia have been the scene of insecurity and chaos since the start of the Saudi-led aggression

against Yemen, and said, "These insecurities have been intensified" intimidating some Saudi rulers that the war on Yemen might lead to chaos at home.

He also pointed to the widening rift among the Saudi-led coalition members, and said, "The Pakistani parliament voted no to the military interference in Yemen and Turkey also refrained from joining the coalition while there are also strong opposition in Egypt against Egyptian president's stance vis-à-vis Yemen."

## Bahrain Extends Detention of Prominent Rights Activist

MANAMA (Press TV) – The Bahraini regime has extended by two weeks the detention period of prominent human rights activist Nabeel Rajab for the second time this month.

In a statement, the prosecutor's office "ordered that he remain detained for 15 days" pending conclusion of more inquiry, the official BNA news agency reported on Sunday.

According to the statement, Rajab is charged with "spreading tendentious rumors" about Bahrain's participation in the Saudi aerial offensive against Yemen and "attacking a state institution."

It also accused the activist of posting online "edited footage from television broadcasts on events in Syria and Palestine, unrelated to military operations in Yemen."

Rajab's family, however, say he was arrested on April 2 for allegedly posting comments on Twitter denouncing torture in a regime detention center where Shia activists are held.

Bahrain first extended Rajab's period of detention for 15 days on April 11.

Rajab, the director of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and a co-founder of the [Persian] Gulf Center for Human Rights, was sentenced in January to six months in prison for posting tweets deemed critical of the Al Khalifa regime. He is awaiting the result of an appeal in that case, expected on May 4.

Meanwhile, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders has reported that Rajab is currently being kept in solitary confinement in an unclean cell while being denied access to newspapers.

The international rights group added that Rajab is targeted by the Bahraini regime solely for his human rights activities.

Rajab has been regularly targeted by the Bahraini regime since anti-regime protests broke out against the ruling Al Khalifa dynasty in the Persian Gulf country in early 2011.

Scores of peaceful protesters have been killed and hundreds of others injured and arrested in the crackdown on the almost daily demonstrations.

Rajab spent two years in prison from mid-2012 to mid-2014.

## Saudi...

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Abdollahian said on Sunday that Saudi Arabia's decision to prevent Iran from delivering humanitarian aid to Yemen "would not be left unanswered".

On April 9, Ayatollah Khamenei too compared Saudi Arabia to Israel. "What the Saudi government is doing in Yemen resembles exactly what the Zionist regime did in Gaza. This is a massacre, a genocide," the Leader said.

"Certainly, the Saudis will suffer damage," Ayatollah Khamenei warned.

Saudi-led bombing raids targeted anti-government forces in south Yemen on Monday, killing at least 12 people as fighting continued across several provinces, officials said.

The head of Iran's navy said warships would remain in international waters near Yemen as part of a 90-day assignment through July 10. Adm. Habibollah Sayyari told state TV they will then be replaced by another fleet.

Iran dispatched the destroyer Alborz and logistics ship Bushehr to the waters off Yemen last month. It says the ships are patrolling the strategic Bab al-Mandab strait on an anti-piracy mission.

Last week the Pentagon said a nine-ship Iranian convoy heading for Yemen had reversed course but Iranian officials dismissed the claim, saying the flotilla was continuing its mission in the waters.

The turning point appeared to be the U.S. navy's announcement last Monday that the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt had departed its usual position in the Persian Gulf and was to join other U.S. forces conducting maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden off Yemen's coast.

Iranian officials have never acknowledged sending a convoy.

## Zarif...

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together and the other party should choose one of them," he said.

A senior Iranian negotiator said last week the latest round of nuclear talks in Vienna between Iran and the six powers had made good progress.

During this month's NPT meeting, Austria is leading an initiative to ban nuclear weapons due to the immense humanitarian suffering they cause. Over 70 countries are backing it 70 years after two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan.

The occupying regime of Israel, which opposes the nuclear deal with Iran, will be attending the conference as an observer for the first time since 1995.

The Zionist regime is widely believed to have the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal. Like nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, Israel is not a signatory to the NPT.

The Israeli regime is widely believed to be the sole possessor of a nuclear arsenal in the Middle East with up to 400 undeclared nuclear warheads. Tel Aviv has rejected global calls to join the NPT and does not allow international bodies to inspect its controversial nuclear program.

"Unfortunately, Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and its refusal to engage with the international community has become the greatest impediment to the universality of this treaty," Zarif told Press TV.

## Iran...

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increase oil exports by up to 1 million bpd when sanctions are lifted. A nuclear deal clears the path for the end of sanctions and the emergence of a dynamic Iranian economy.

Compared with other developing countries, Iran already performs decently on measures of human development. Ninety-eight percent of 15-24 year olds are literate. Life expectancy increased dramatically, from 54 in 1980 to 74 in 2012. According to the United Nations, Iran's overall human development index has improved by 67% in the last decade.

Despite sanctions, Iran is already one of the world's top-20 economies. For the first decade of the 21st century, annual growth rates hovered around five percent, sometimes reaching as high as seven percent.

The government has recently announced the return of positive growth. According to an International Monetary Fund forecast, the Iranian economy will grow two percent in 2015, an impressive reversal from the five percent contraction that occurred in 2012.

Iran may soon be recognized as one of the world's most promising economies of the 21st century.

Iran, which invests more in scientific research than any other Middle Eastern nation, has seen rapid growth in its high-tech sector. Its elite technical universities are ranked among the top in the world. Sharif University of Technology — "Iran's MIT" — was hailed by a professor of electrical engineering at Stanford as the "the finest university in the world preparing undergraduate electrical engineers". Iran also stands among the leading countries in cutting-edge sciences such as stem cell research and nanotechnology.

While the Iranian economy is still largely dependent on oil exports, it has also seen significant industrial development. In 2009, Iran's auto industry became the 11th largest in the world, producing more than 1.4 million vehicles (more than the United Kingdom or Italy). Auto is the second largest sector after oil and offers vast employment opportunities to young workers in Iran. The country also boasts significant development in high-tech industries such as machinery, automotive, steel, petrochemicals and medical technology.