

Report:

Erdogan Conspired With Saudis to Help Terrorists in Syrian Idlib Onslaught

ANKARA (Dispatches) – A recent report has revealed that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan conspired with Saudi Arabian authorities and facilitated the ground for foreign-sponsored terrorists to capture the northwestern Syrian city of Idlib last March following days of clashes with Syrian troops.

The report, published by Lebanon-based Arabic-language al-Manar satellite television network and citing unnamed sources, said that Riyadh funneled weapons and money to the terrorists, including the al-Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra group, while Ankara provided logistical support as well as massive fire cover for the extremists.

The al-Manar report also said that a command center was set up in Turkey in order to organize the offensive against Idlib, located roughly 295 kilometers (183 miles) north of the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Saudi officials, in return, paid for satellite images that the command center needed for the purpose.

Moreover, Turkey supplied the terrorists during the battles with Wi-Fi Internet connectivity via an unmanned aerial vehicle that flew overhead and linked the computers and smart phones used by the terrorists together.

On March 28, foreign-backed terrorists seized Idlib in northwestern Syria after more than five days of fierce fighting with units of government forces.

Syria has been plagued by a deadly crisis fueled by Takfiri groups since March 2011. More than 222,000 people have so far been killed in the conflict, according to the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Over 3.8 million Syrians have also fled the violence to neighboring countries, namely Jordan and Lebanon, and more than 7.2 million others have also become internally uprooted, according to the United Nations.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

140 ISIL Terrorists Killed in Syrian Air Force operation

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – At least 140 Takfiri ISIL terrorists have been killed in an operation conducted by the Syrian air force on one of the main strongholds of the ISIL in the northern province of Raqqa.

The official SANA news agency reported on Tuesday that the terrorists were killed in an aerial attack on an air base where the terrorists were positioned.

The report said that dozens of terrorists were injured in the attack, which targeted the Tabka air base and its surroundings. Vehicles belonging to the terrorists with large quantities of arms and ammunition were also destroyed in the operation, the report said. ISIL seized control of the Tabka



The bodies of Takfiri terrorists killed by the Syrian army near the southern city of Sweida

air base in August 2014.

The major aerial attack came

a week after the ISIL terrorists seized the historic city of Palmyra.

Sources in the Syrian army have revealed that ISIL is planning to transfer its members and ammunition from Raqqa, which has been regarded as its main bastion, to Palmyra, in central Syria.

Earlier in the day, Syrian armed forces launched other attacks on the positions of terrorists in various parts of the country, including the provinces of Idlib, Hasaka, Sweida and Homs, killing scores of terrorists in those areas. Volunteer forces, known as the popular defense groups, also contributed to the operations, SANA said.

The violence fueled by Takfiri groups operating in Syria has claimed the lives of over 222,000 people since March 2011, according to reports.

Four Attackers Killed in Kabul Following Overnight Gunfight



A team of Afghan firefighters work to put out a fire caused by a bomb blast in a parking lot in central Kabul.

KABUL (Press TV) – Four attackers have been killed following massive explosions and hours-long sporadic gunfire within the diplomatic zone in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul.

“Four attackers who had one RPG launcher, three AK-47s and one grenade launcher were killed in Wazir Akbar Khan,” Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Ayoub Salangi said on Twitter early on Wednesday morning.

According to the official, no civilian or military casualties were reported.

“An unknown number of armed men have attacked what at this stage we believe is a guesthouse in the Wazir Akbar Khan district,” Kabul’s police spokesman Ebadullah Karimi had said earlier on Tuesday night.

Several foreign embassies and diplomatic compounds are located in the Wazir Akbar Khan that has been a prime target of Taliban operations in the past.

The target of the attack was believed to be the Heetal Hotel, which was also the target of a terrorist attack in 2009 that killed eight people and wounding 40 others.

So far no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which come at the time of the Taliban’s so-called annual spring offensive against Afghan and foreign forces.

A series of attacks have recently been launched by the Taliban in the capital and other locations in the country.

On May 19, a Taliban car bomb went off in the justice ministry’s parking lot in Kabul killing four and injuring dozens of other people.

Earlier this month, Taliban militants targeted a guesthouse in the capital, killing 14 people who were attending a concert.

Muslim...

(Continued From Page One)

7,330 others injured due to the conflict in Yemen. However, according to Yemen’s Freedom House Foundation, the Saudi airstrikes have claimed the lives of about 4,000 Yemeni people.

Zarif said Iran has proposed four issues to settle the crisis in Yemen, including the establishment of a ceasefire, the dispatch of humanitarian aid, the holding of intra-Yemeni dialog and the formation of an inclusive national unity government.

He called on foreign countries to help settle the ongoing crisis in war-ravaged Yemen rather than hamper the process.

In a letter to the UN secretary general on April 17, the Iranian foreign minister submitted a four-point peace plan in an effort to put an end to the bloodshed in Yemen.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarif said all regional countries must forge collective cooperation to tackle the increasing challenges in the region.

“Dialogue and understanding with regional countries is a priority on Iran’s foreign policy,” he added.

He noted that sectarian discord, terrorist groups such as the ISIL and war are common threats against all countries in the region.

Iran is keen to have close relations with member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the minister pointed out.

Zarif also reaffirmed Iran’s support for the Iraqi nation and government, particularly in the fight against the ISIL Takfiri terrorist group.

The minister said he is ready to visit the Saudi capital of Riyadh for talks over ways of ending the war on Yemen.

Zarif said Iran seeks good relations with Saudi Arabia and “does not like to see the current measures against the Yemeni people continue since the military operation does not contribute to the resolution of the crisis”.

U.S. ...

(Continued From Page One)

Early this month, activists said U.S. airstrikes killed more than 50 civilians in northern Syria.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based group, said Bir-mahle village was hit and that some people were still trapped in rubble.

A spokesman for U.S. Central Command it had “no information to corroborate allegations that coalition air strikes resulted in civilian casualties”. But he said it was investigating.

Earlier in the month, the Observatory said the U.S. air campaign had killed more than 2,000 people in total.

Seven children were killed, and 13 people were still unaccounted for, the group said.

The U.S. expanded its airstrike campaign last September. Countries that have carried out raids in Syria also include Canada, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

Opposition Candidate in Turkey Elections Shot, Wounded

Adana (AFP) – A Turkish opposition figure running for the June general elections in Turkey has been injured in a gun attack in the country’s southern province of Adana.

The province’s governor, Mustafa Buyuk, said Elif Dogan Turkmen, who is running for parliament representing the Republican People’s Party (CHP), came under the armed attack in the district of Cukurova on Tuesday.

Buyuk added that the opposition candidate, 53, was shot three times as she was heading for a gathering with businessmen in the district as part of her campaigning for the elections, which are due on June 7.

“She was shot in the knees, but her injuries are not life threatening,” Buyuk said, adding that Turkish authorities are probing “all possible motives” behind the attack.

The governor said one of the suspected assailants has been identified.

CCTV images released by Turkish media showed a man pointing his gun at Dogan Turkmen.

On May 8, two concurrent explosions hit the offices of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) in Turkey’s southern cities of Adana and Mersin, injuring at least six people.

Also in April, the HDP headquarters in the capi-

tal, Ankara, came under attack by unidentified attackers. No casualties were reported though.

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Turkey seeks to change the country’s constitution by getting more lawmakers into the legislative chamber. Such an amendment would give incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan an upper hand in almost all administrative and security issues.

Opposition parties believe that that the measure by the AKP would turn Turkey into a dictatorship, with the HDP vowing to block the move if it wins more than the 10 percent of the votes needed for a direct representation in the parliament.

Kayhan

International

Advertising Dept.

33110251-9

Ext. 2336