

Over 43 Dead After Saudi Airstrikes Hit Market in Yemen's Hajjah

SANAA (FNA) – At least 43 people lost their lives after Saudi warplanes heavily pounded a market in the Yemeni province of Hajjah on Sunday.

According to reports, Saudi fighter jets carried out several strikes against a traditional market in the Northwestern province of Hajjah, leaving more than 43 people dead and dozens of others injured.

Yemeni tribal sources said on Saturday that nearly two dozen people, mostly women and children, were killed after Saudi bombers pounded a munitions factory in the Saqayn region of the northwestern province of Sa'ada.

The strikes heavily and repeatedly bombed the factory and its adjacent residential areas.

Later in the day, the Saudi air raids hit a mosque in the Razih district

in the same province.

Separately, at least two children were killed after Saudi jets dropped bombs on a residential area in the Qabbaytah district of the Southern Lahij Province.

Saudi Arabia has been striking Yemen for 102 days now to restore power to fugitive president Mansour Hadi, a close ally of Riyadh.

Hadi stepped down in January and refused to reconsider the decision despite calls by Ansarullah revolutionaries of the Houthi movement.

Despite Riyadh's claims that it is bombing the positions of the Ansarullah fighters, Saudi warplanes are flattening residential areas and civilian infrastructures.

The Monarchy's attacks have so far claimed the lives of at least 4,868 civilians, mostly women and children.

For Criticizing Riyadh

Saudi Arabia Sentences Pakistani Activist to 8 Years Behind Bars



Pakistani political commentator Zaid Hamid

RIYADH (Dispatches) – A Pakistani political commentator has been sentenced to eight years in prison in Saudi Arabia and 1,000

lashes for allegedly criticizing the kingdom's military aggression against Yemen, media reports say. Media outlets reported in early

July that Saudi authorities have given the harsh sentence to Zaid Hamid, who was reportedly arrested in mid-June while on a visit

with his wife to the holy city of Medina.

Saudi Arabia is yet to confirm the reports.

According to Pakistani officials, Hamid's wife was able to get permission to talk to him in a Medina prison.

Hamid's articles and speeches particularly raised people's awareness of Saudi atrocities in Yemen. Saudi Arabia adopts a zero-tolerance policy regarding any criticism of the kingdom's political and religious activities.

Riyadh began airstrikes against Yemen on March 26 – without a UN mandate – in a bid to restore power to fugitive former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is a Riyadh ally, and to undermine the Ansarullah movement in the Arab world's poorest country.

At least 2,600 people have been killed and 11,000 others wounded due to the conflict in Yemen since March 19, the UN says.

Leader...

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counterproductive and quite the opposite have turned into opportunities elsewhere. The rediscovery of Asia, Africa and South America, and their turn away from Europe has been the most important and perhaps the least expected consequence of the network of illegal Western sanctions and oil wars.

Within this context, with or without a final nuclear deal in Vienna, sanctions against Iran will crumble in the coming months. Even Germany's Ambassador to the United States Peter Wessig agrees:

He says, "The alternatives to the diplomatic approach are not very attractive. If diplomacy fails, the sanctions regime might unravel and we would probably see Iran enriching once again as it has done before the negotiations started."

Moreover, the sanctions regime will face more risk, if Washington were seen as responsible for the failure of ongoing diplomacy in Vienna. As maintained by the IAEA, Tehran has so far lived up to its obligations under the interim nuclear deal in Lausanne. Therefore, the country has nothing to lose if the talks fail.

Brazil...

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described his reaction to the spying revelations as "maximum indignation."

For his part, the Central Bank's Pereira da Silva said his reaction is to fully embrace the stinging denunciation of NSA's electronic surveillance contained in Dilma's September, 2013 United Nations speech, delivered while Obama waited in the hallway to speak. That blistering speech was widely regarded in Brazil as a high point of Dilma's leadership on the world stage.

Speaking from the General Assembly podium, she declared that "tampering in such a manner in the affairs of other countries is a breach of international law and is an affront of the principles that must guide the relations among them, especially among friendly nations."

She condemned US mass surveillance as a "grave violation of human rights and of civil liberties" and, in a rare invocation of her own personal history as a rebel against the country's oppressive military dictatorship, said: "As many other Latin Americans, I fought against authoritarianism and censorship, and I cannot but defend, in an uncompromising fashion, the right to privacy of individuals and the sovereignty of my country. In the absence of the right to privacy, there can be no true freedom of expression and opinion, and therefore no effective democracy."

The new leak comes on the heels of previous publications by WikiLeaks that show systematic US targeting of the highest officials including three French presidents and the current chancellor of Germany. According to the Intercept, the US government spied on German journalists as well.

Regional...

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have the answer by surgical operations" Israel might take "certain steps" such as the Americans did in "Nagasaki and Hiroshima, causing at the end the fatalities of 200,000".

ISIL Releases New Video Showing Mass Execution in Palmyra

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Takfiri ISIL terrorist group has released a new gruesome video which purportedly shows mass execution of 25 Syrian soldiers in the ancient city of Palmyra.

In the footage that emerged on Saturday, the executioners that seem to be teenagers shoot dead the soldiers dressed in green and brown military uniforms on the

stage of the city's amphitheater.

A relatively small number of men and children are seen watching the carnage from the ancient theater's seats.

The ISIL terrorists captured Palmyra, which is on the list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites and is located about 215 kilometers (133 miles) northeast of the capital, Damascus, on May 21.

The Takfiri group has reportedly carried out over 200 executions, including of civilians, in and around Palmyra.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported the first executions in Palmyra on May 27.

Syria's antiquities director Mamoun Abdelkarim warned at the time that the killings were indicative of the start of "the group's

barbarism and savagery against the ancient monuments of Palmyra."

"Using the Roman theater to execute people proves that these people are against humanity," he added.

ISIL has so far released several similar videos purportedly showing execution of its captives from different countries, including the United States, Britain, and Japan.

Afghan Air Force Strikes Kill 23 Taliban Militants

KABUL (Press TV) – More than two dozen Taliban militants have been killed in airstrikes by the Afghan air force in Afghanistan's northern province of Faryab near the border with Turkmenistan.

Major Raza Raza, a spokesman for the 209th Shahin Military Corps, said on Saturday that 23 members of the Taliban militant group were killed after Afghan combat helicopters carried out aerial attacks in the Dilbi district of Faryab Province.

He added that a number of foreign militants, including six Pakistanis and one Uzbek citizen, were among those killed in the strikes.

The Taliban, however, have rejected the reports.

Meanwhile, Afghan government forces killed a key Taliban militant commander in the western Herat Province on Saturday.

Herat provincial police chief Abdul Majid Rozi said Hajji Wazir, the Taliban commander in western Afghanistan, was killed during a raid on a house.

Rozi added that the slain Taliban commander was commanding some 500 militants, and his death could be a major setback to the Taliban wreaking havoc in Herat and adjacent provinces.

Afghanistan is gripped by insecurity years after the United States and its allies invaded the country in 2001 as part of Washington's so-called war on terror.



Taliban militants stand on a hillside at the Maydan Shahr district of Wardak Province, west of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

Even though the invasion overthrew the Taliban, many areas

across Afghanistan still face violence.