

Zionist Settlers Torch Palestinian Homes, Burn Baby to Death

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A Palestinian baby has burned to death after Zionist settlers set fire to homes in the occupied West Bank.

Two homes were set ablaze in an arson attack by Zionist settlers in the Palestinian village of Duma, south of Nablus, in the early hours of Friday. A large fire broke out after settlers threw firebombs and Molotov cocktails into the Palestinian houses.

Local residents and witnesses identified the infant killed in the attack as 18-month-old Ali Saad Dawabsha.

Palestinian medical sources said the child's parents, as well as his four-year-old brother, were all injured and rushed to a hospital in Nablus.

The two homes were set ablaze by settlers who came from the nearby settlement of Ma'akeg Efraim.

According to local residents' accounts, the parents woke up and tried to remove their children from the house, but were unable to save their youngest son. The other torched house was empty at the time.

Media reports indicate that Hebrew graffiti was found near the

arson scene, reading "revenge" and "long live the Messiah." The settlers also wrote 'price tag' and drew a Star of David on the walls of the homes.

Zionist settlers have in recent years carried out various attacks which involved arson and graffiti on Palestinian property in the West Bank and al-Quds under the "price tag" slogan.

Price tag attacks are acts of vandalism and violence against Palestinians and their properties as well as Islamic holy sites.

Zionist vandals also frequently

launch price tag attacks against Palestinian fields in the occupied West Bank, uprooting dozens of olive trees.

More than half a million Israelis live in over 120 illegal settlements built since Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds in 1967.

The UN and most countries regard the Israeli settlements as illegal because the territories were captured by the occupying regime in a war in 1967 and are hence subject to the Geneva Conventions, which forbid construction on occupied lands.

Iran...

(Continued From Page One)

previously undisclosed remarks were made during a Sunday meeting with parliamentarians.

"American and Canadian inspectors cannot be sent to Iran," said Araqchi. "It is mentioned in the deal that inspectors should be from countries that have diplomatic relations with Islamic Republic of Iran."

He also said inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency will not have access to "sensitive and military documents".

The U.S. and Iran severed diplomatic relations after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Canada closed its embassy in Tehran and suspended diplomatic relations in 2012.

Two...

(Continued From Page One)

grid a year in order to keep pace with the runaway demand. Iran is also trying to switch to cleaner energies from fossil fuels which make up more than 85% of its overall energy mix.

Nuclear energy is part of the plan, with natural gas being another alternative for cleaner fuel as the country is converting its thermal units to combined cycle facilities.

Iran also plans to build a renewable capacity for 5,000 megawatts of wind and solar power, with its first wind farm established in the north-central city of Qazvin. According to Iranian officials, projects for 1,300 megawatts of renewables are either underway or have been signed.

A recent breakthrough in nuclear negotiations, meanwhile, has drawn the attention of international renewable energy developers and some of them have already headed to Iran to scout for business opportunities.

Last week, a Suzlon Energy executive said that the Indian company, one of the world's leading wind turbine suppliers, was competing with Germany's Siemens for renewable energy projects in Iran.

Both companies had sent their representatives to Tehran to test the waters for cooperation.

Yadavaran...

(Continued From Page One)

in early 2014 when the temporary agreement leading to this month's longer-term deal saw Iran boost its exports to Asia to nearly 1.4 million bpd.

Iran's current output is about 3 million bpd, while its exports to Asia in June were running at about 1.2 million bpd.

Sources at Sinopec said company and NIOC are already in discussions to develop phase two of Yadavaran.

As Iran starts to invest in its industry, Chinese companies are worried about being outrun by Western companies such as France's Total and Italy's Eni, which have older, more established relationships with Tehran.

"Chinese firms may have squandered some of the best opportunities during the worst sanction days by not being a friend in need," said a CNPC source.

CNPC in 2011 scaled back its participation in the giant South Pars field, leading to Iran suspending the state company's contract. In late 2010, CNOOC withdrew completely from the North Pars project.

"Once out of sanctions, Iran will be looking for European or American standards in building oil and gas facilities as well as in services," said a Sinopec official.

On the first visit to Iran for 12 years by a French foreign minister, Laurent Fabius was in Tehran this week to improve diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic and win business for French companies.

Over 100 ISIL Terrorists Killed In Iraqi Army Operations

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – At least 108 ISIL Takfiri terrorists have been killed in operations conducted by Iraqi security personnel and military aircraft in the troubled western province of Anbar.

On Thursday, Iraqi fighter jets carried out precision strikes against ISIL positions in the town of Rutbah, situated about 428 kilometers (265 miles) west of the capital, Baghdad, killing 13 terrorists in the process, Arabic-language al-Furat news agency reported.

A commander responsible for orchestrating terrorist attacks in the area was among the slain extremists.

Commander of the Federal Police Forces Lieutenant General Raed Shaker Jawdat said 12 ISIL Takfiris were killed as Iraqi security forces launched an ambush against the terrorists in the al-Madhiq region, which lies east of Anbar's provincial capital city of Ramadi. Iraqi forces also destroyed five vehicles belonging to the Takfiris during the operation.



Armed Iraqi volunteer fighters from the Popular Mobilization units stand guard in a building during clashes with ISIL terrorists in the city of Saqlawiyah, Iraq.

Separately, the commander of Babylon Operations, Major General Riyad Khikani, said at least 10 ISIL Takfiris, among them bombers of Chechen nationality, were killed after Iraqi forces carried out an operation west of Ramadi, situated about 110 kilometers (68 miles) west of Baghdad.

Moreover, Iraqi military aircraft pounded ISIL terrorists'

hideouts in the Hay al-Tamim neighborhood of Ramadi, leaving more than 10 extremists dead and a number of explosives-laden vehicles destroyed.

Nine ISIL terrorists were killed as Iraqi security personnel made headway toward Abu Issa bridge in the embattled province. Government forces also defused 30 improvised explosive devices in the area.

Iraqi police forces also killed 20 ISIL terrorists and defused 26 bombs in another Anbar region.

In the town of Karmah, located about 48 kilometers (30 miles) west of Baghdad, three ISIL terrorists were killed as security forces conducted an offensive. A vehicle carrying the Takfiris and four hideouts were also destroyed in the process.

Eighteen ISIL terrorists were killed and a pickup truck with a mounted machine gun was destroyed during an Iraqi police operation in the Dhira' Dijlah district of the western province. Additionally, Iraqi security forces carried out an operation in Ain al-Faras region, killing 13 ISIL extremists.

The northern and western parts of Iraq have been plagued by violence ever since ISIL Takfiri terrorists began their march through the Iraqi territory in June 2014.

The heavily-armed terrorists took control of Mosul before sweeping through parts of the country's heartland.

Turkey Prosecutors Open Probe Against Kurdish Leader

ANKARA (Press TV) - Turkish prosecutors have launched an investigation against the leader of the country's pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) over accusations that he "provoked and armed" protesters during demonstrations in southeastern Turkey last year.

The chief prosecutor's office in the mostly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir opened the inquiry into HDP chairman, Selahattin Demirtas, on Thursday. The politician could face up to 24 years in jail if the case comes to court.

Dozens of people lost their lives in eastern Turkey last October, when clashes broke out between Turkish forces and Kurds protesting against Ankara's refusal to help Syrian Kurds fighting ISIL terrorists in the northern Syrian border city of Kobani.

The news came only hours after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan verbally assaulted Demirtas, telling him to "know his place" and condemning his elder brother, Nurettin, over joining Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants in the semi-autonomous northern part of Iraq.

"He would run there (too) if he found the opportunity," Erdogan said during a visit to China.

Demirtas has in return denied any wrongdoing and accused the Turkish president of targeting the HDP in revenge for upsetting the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) with a strong performance in the June 7 legislative elections.

"We have committed no unforgivable crimes. Our only crime was winning 13 percent of the vote," he said at a parliament session on Tuesday.

On Thursday, Demirtas denounced as nothing more than a "show" Turkey's alleged anti-terror police raids and its military campaign against ISIL Takfiri terrorists in Syria.

He accused Ankara of using purported anti-ISIL airstrikes as a "cover" to bomb PKK positions.

"A few air raids were launched by Turkey against ISIL targets for show only and it is over," Demirtas said, adding that most of the alleged suspects "were released".

Turkey recently launched airstrikes against purported ISIL targets in Syria as well as PKK

positions in Iraq, after a deadly bomb attack claimed by ISIL Takfiris left 32 people dead in the southwestern town of Suruc, across the border from Kobani.

Turkish police also launched a far-and-wide arrest campaign following the July 20 Suruc bombing. However, figures from the Turkish government state that only around one-tenth of those detained in police raids had links with ISIL, while the rest were Kurds.

A shaky ceasefire that had stood since 2013 was declared as null by PKK following the Turkish airstrikes against the group last week, narrowing chances of the two sides reaching a deal in the near future.

Ankara has been among the main supporters of Takfiri terrorists wreaking havoc on Syria since March 2011. The violence has reportedly claimed more than 230,000 lives up until now.

There are reports indicating that the Turkish government actively trains and arms the terrorists operating in Syria, and also facilitates the safe passage of would-be foreign terrorists into the crisis-stricken Arab country.

Kuwait Busts Major Terrorist Cell Linked to ISIL

KUWAIT CITY (AP) – Kuwait has arrested members of a terror cell allegedly linked to the ISIL Takfiri terrorists, one month after a deadly bombing killed dozens in a Shia mosque in Kuwait City.

Kuwait's Interior Ministry said Thursday that security forces arrested four men with alleged links to ISIL, while a fifth member was killed in neighboring Iraq during a "terrorist operation."

All the members are thought to be Kuwaiti nationals born between 1982 and 1990 and are suspected of taking part in terrorist activities in Iraq and Syria, a statement by the Kuwaiti ministry said, adding that all the individuals have admitted receiving instructions and practical training from terrorist organizations.

Last month, a bomb explosion at a Shia mosque in the east of Kuwait City left over two dozen people dead and injured more than 200 others.

ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

The incident prompted the Kuwaiti government to declare itself at war with the terrorists, saying ISIL aims to sow discord and stoke sectarian strife in Kuwait.

The Thursday statement, however, said those arrested were not related to the June 26 mosque attack, adding that prosecution is underway on a separate group of suspects related to the mosque case. The government has arrested 29 people, including seven women, in connection with the deadly attack, which was the worst such incident in the history of Kuwait.

The statement called the recent arrests "a pre-emptive move," saying the suspects will be tried on August 4.

Over the past few months, ISIL has expanded its terror campaign to attack Shia citizens in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

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