

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahrain's main opposition movement, al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, has condemned the ongoing crackdown on and "collective punishment" of Bahraini people on the island of Sitra in the northeastern part of the Persian Gulf country. Al-Wefaq said in a statement published on its website on Tuesday, "What is happening in Sitra Island... is an organized collective punishment."

No wealth is more useful than intelligence and wisdom; no solitude is more horrible than when people avoid you on account of your vanity and conceit or when you wrongly consider yourself above everybody to confide and consult.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Palestinians Slam Zionist Law to Force-Feed Hunger Striking Prisoners



The file photo shows Palestinian prisoners in a Zionist jail.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinians have blasted a Zionist law that allows the Guantanamo-style force-feeding of Palestinian prisoners who are on hunger strike in the regime's jails.

On Thursday, Israel's parliament (Knesset) passed into law the leg-

islation to force-feed prisoners on hunger strike. The move has met fierce condemnations, with critics insisting that it is a form of torture to silence protesting inmates.

Issa Qaraqe, who heads the Palestinian Authority's committee

of prisoners' affairs, on Thursday strongly condemned the Israeli law, saying it is tantamount to legalizing murder and sets a "very dangerous precedent."

"Force-feeding is unethical torture against prisoners that might lead to their death," he said, adding that it

is "an execution of prisoners who go on hunger strike."

The Palestinian official also said that the controversial law, which passed with a slim majority, contradicts all international treaties and conventions.

"The law aims to break prisoners' hunger strikes by force-feeding them. They strike peacefully and for just demands," Qaraqe said.

Meanwhile, a senior official with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) also slammed the law as a "politically-motivated mechanism of torture which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and conventions."

Hanan Ashrawi said in a statement on Thursday that "feeding accompanied by threats, coercion, force or use of physical restraints is a form of inhuman and degrading treatment."

The law seeks to prevent imprisoned Palestinian prisoners from pressuring Israel by refusing food.

The Zionist regime has long been concerned that hunger strikes by Palestinians in its prisons could end in death and trigger waves of protests in the occupied lands.

More than 7,000 Palestinians are reportedly incarcerated in 17 Zionist prisons and detention centers, many of them without charge or trial.

30 Turkish F-16s Bomb PKK Camps in Northern Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – At least 30 Turkish military aircraft have bombarded the positions of Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq.

According to reports published by Istanbul-based NTV and CNN-Turk satellite television networks, at least 30 F-16 fighter jets operated by the Turkish Air Force pounded five locations in Iraq's Kurdistan region on Thursday, demolishing shelters, storage points, and arms depots of the Kurdish militants.

Since last week, Turkey has been carrying out 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 the northern Syrian town of Kobani.

Turkish police also launched a far-and-wide arrest campaign following the July 20 Suruc bombing. However, figures from the Turkish

government show that only around one-tenth of those detained in police raids had links with ISIL, while the rest were Kurds.

On Thursday, Selahattin Demirtas, the leader of Turkey's pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party denounced as nothing more than a "show" Turkey's alleged anti-terror police raids and its military campaign against ISIL Takfiri terrorists in Syria.

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

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.

Saudi Arabia Conducts Fresh Attacks on Areas Across Yemen



A vendor tries to salvage goods from under the rubble of his shop following a Saudi airstrike on the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

RIYADH (Press TV) – Saudi Arabia has conducted fresh attacks on Yemen as international organizations voice concern about the humanitarian situation in the impoverished Arab country.

According to local media outlets, Saudi warplanes bombarded the Yemeni military base of al-Anad in the southwestern province of Lahij early on Friday.

The Saudi jets also targeted an area in the central province of Ma'rib with five airstrikes and also bombarded the district of Lawdar in the southern province of Abyan.

There have been no reports on the possible casualties or damage as a result of the Saudi attacks.

In retaliation for the Saudi airstrikes, Yemen's Ansarullah fighters along with Yemeni army forces targeted an area in the southwestern Saudi province of Jizan with as many as 12 Katyusha rockets.

The developments come as the humanitarian situation in Yemen has become critical, with many international aid organizations seeking a safe passage into the country to send much-needed medical and humanitarian sup-

plies to the country. More than four months of the Saudi airstrikes have caused severe shortages in basic necessities and nine million people remain in dire need of immediate assistance across Yemen.

Joanne Liu, the president of Doctors Without Borders, which is also known by its French acronym, MSF, said in a telephone interview with AFP from Yemen's capital city of Sana'a on Thursday that the Saudi blockade of the impoverished state is killing as many civilians as the Saudi military aggression.

Liu also stressed the need for "ways to get supplies to come in a safe way" so that "people can get their medicine and not die" of easily treatable diseases.

Also on Thursday, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) managed to distribute food to around 340,000 people in eight areas of the southwestern Yemeni port city of Aden.

"We are challenging the odds to reach tens of thousands of people who would go hungry without food assistance," said Muhannad Hadi, the WFP regional director for the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central

UN Envoy: Fighting Terrorism Priority for Syria

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – Syria's Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar al-Jaafari says fighting terrorism is a priority for the Syrian government in the process to end the conflict in the Arab country.

"We have affirmed to UN Special Envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura that fighting terrorism is necessary and priority for Syria," the Syrian envoy to the UN said on Wednesday.

"If dealing with terrorism isn't as it should be, then other processes and tracks will not be important," Jaafari added.

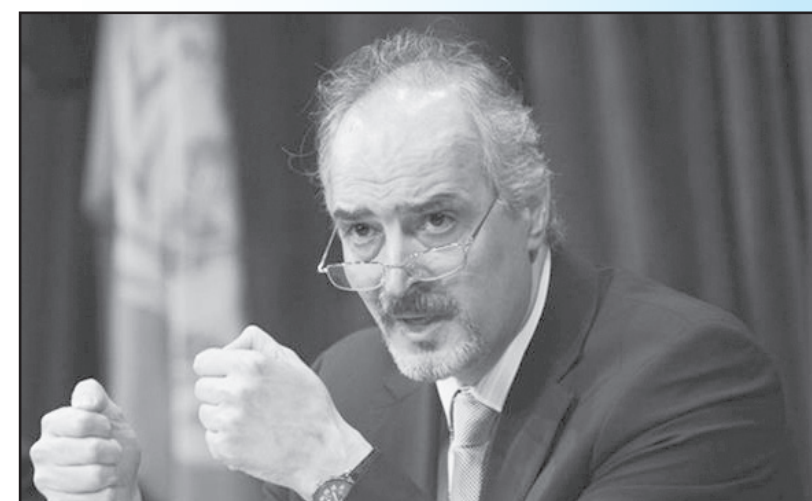
He made the remarks after De Mistura invited Syrians to participate in what he called "parallel, or simultaneous, thematic discus-

sions through intra-Syrian working groups addressing the key aspects of the Geneva Communiqué."

De Mistura was referring to a document issued following talks on the Syrian crisis in the Swiss city of Geneva in 2012 that called for the formation of a transitional government after an immediate end to fighting.

The UN envoy to Syria, however, did not specify further details about the time and place of the proposed talks, saying that it was too soon to hold a third peace conference over the Syrian crisis in Geneva. The last round of the talks was held in 2014.

"Syria wants to achieve a peaceful solution and settlement to put an end to the terrorists flowing into



Syria's Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar al-Jaafari

Syria through controlling Syrian-Turkish borders, and to pressure Is-

rael to stop supporting terrorists on the Golan front," Jaafari stressed.

Leadership Succession Exposes Rift in Taliban Ranks

KABUL (AP) – The announcement of the 2013 death of Taliban's elusive leader Mullah Omar has reportedly exposed divisions within the senior ranks of the Afghan militant group over the new leadership.

Citing Afghan and Pakistani officials, Turkey's Anadolu news agency said that sources had reported a rift among Taliban militants over the recent appointment of Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour as the group's new leader.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official speaking on the condition of anonymity said many of the senior Taliban members were in favor of Mullah Omar's son, Mullah Yaqoob, replacing his father.

This is while Afghan government sources said that Mullah Omar had chosen former deputy and co-founder of the movement, Mullah Baradar Akhund, who is seen as being more inclined to peace talks with Kabul, as his successor.

Reports also point to differences between Taliban members over peace talks with Kabul, with some vowing to fight for power instead of taking part in negotiations.

The Taliban announced the appointment of the new leader in a statement on its website on Friday.

Mansour was a former governor of Kandahar during the Taliban's rule over Afghanistan prior to the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, the purported chief of the Taliban-linked Haqqani militant group, and Haibatullah Akhunzada, a shadow Taliban chief justice, have also been named as deputy chiefs.