

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is planning to build a new illegal settlement in the occupied East al-Quds and on the site of the home of the Palestinian man involved in a deadly truck attack against Zionist troops. The regime in Tel Aviv has already ordered the demolition of Fadi al-Qanbar's home in the Jabel Mukaber neighborhood of southern East al-Quds.

One who assents or subscribes to the actions of a group or a party is as good as having committed the deed himself. A man who joins a sinful deed makes himself responsible for two-fold punishments, one for doing the deed and the other for assenting and subscribing to it.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Iraq Forces Seize Tigris Bridge, Enter Mosul University



Iraqi army members clash with Daesh from the roof of a building in the east of the northern city of Mosul, January 12, 2017.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi forces have entered the Mosul University compound in a key advance against Daesh in the northern city, the terror group's last stronghold in the Arab country.

Iraqi special forces fought their way on Friday into the university's compound and liberated a number of its

buildings, Iraq's al-Sumariah television network reported.

The university has served as a base to the terrorists, who have reportedly been using its laboratory to produce chemical weapons.

In another development, Iraq's Elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) units

liberated Freedom Bridge, the second one running across Tigris River in Mosul, raising the national flag over the structure.

Al-Sumariah, meanwhile, said Daesh had planned to blow up the bridges to slow the troops' advances.

Iraqi forces also cleansed the Office

of the Provincial Governor of Nineveh Province, of which Mosul is the capital, as well as two other government buildings in the province's Mosul District of terrorist presence.

Abdul-Amir Yar-Allah, the head of the Nineveh operations, further announced the liberation of the buildings housing the province's Agriculture, Development Planning and Government Properties Authorities.

Iraqi sources, also said the al-Sadriah neighborhood on the western bank of Tigris had been restored to government control.

A research group says violence left 16,361 civilians dead last year in Iraq, which has been hit by a campaign of death and destruction perpetrated by Daesh terrorists over the past few years.

In a report released on Thursday, the London-based Iraqi Body Count said that an average of more than 1,300 civilians lost their lives due to violence in the Arab country every month.

It further said that the worst affected areas were the northern province of Nineveh and the capital city of Baghdad, with 7,431 and 3,714 Iraqi civilians killed, respectively.

The most deadly bomb attack took place at a very crowded market in Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood on July 3, 2016. Daesh claimed responsibility for the incident, which killed 324 people, including women and children.

Syrian Forces Advance Into Village Near Damascus



A handout picture released by SANA on January 11, 2017, shows civilians in the Wadi Barada area near Damascus waiting outside a makeshift tent to have their documents checked by government officials before leaving the area.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian army has retaken a village in the strategic Wadi Barada area in the countryside of Damascus, which hosts water supplies to the capital and its surroundings.

The troops advanced into the village of Bassimeh in the area, where Barada, Damascus' main river, as well as a spring supplying the capital's general area with water, are located.

Terrorists have been fighting government forces in the area since late December, 2016, damaging the water processing facilities there and reducing water flow to some five million people in the city.

Meanwhile, as many as 500 civilians and terrorists evacuated the area as part of a reconciliation agreement between the armed groups and the government.

United Nations envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said five villages in Wadi Barada had reached agreements with the government to stop hostilities.

Damascus is pushing for more such deals in order to secure civilian lives there, and send in engineers to repair the facilities.

In recent months, hundreds of terrorists have laid down weapons and sur-

rendered to the Syrian army under such reconciliation agreements.

The Syrian government says terrorists in Wadi Barada, including those from the Fateh al-Sham terror group, are deliberately cutting water supplies to the capital and its surroundings.

Late last year, the army managed to liberate the eastern sector of Aleppo, the country's second-largest city, which had fallen to terrorist groups back in 2012.

By doing so, the Syrian forces both restored the entirety of the city to government control and dealt the hardest blow to the terrorists since the onset of their campaign of foreign-fueled violence in Syria in 2011.

Government forces later secured the evacuation of remaining civilians and armed elements from the city under a ceasefire deal, brokered by Russia and Turkey, which were respectively representing the Syrian government and the armed factions.

The Aleppo deal set the stage for a landmark all-Syria truce deal between Damascus and foreign-backed terrorist groups operating in the country. The Daesh and Fateh al-Sham terror groups are excluded from the ceasefire deal.

NATO Admits to Killing of Civilians In 2016 Afghanistan Attack

KABUL (Dispatches) – NATO has confirmed that American troops enlisted with the Western military alliance killed 33 civilians in a single incident in Afghanistan's volatile north back in November last year.

The military alliance's Afghan Resolute Support Mission made the admission after a U.S. military probe into the incident officially revealed the perpetrators behind the carnage, which occurred near Kunduz on November 3 last year.

Referring to the U.S. probe, NATO said in the report, "The investigation determined, regrettably, that 33 civilians were killed and 27 others wounded."

The deadly incident, which is considered one of the most contentious ones involving U.S.-led NATO forces during 15 years of

their military campaign in Afghanistan, took place when NATO ground forces called in an airstrike against Taliban militants holed up inside civilian homes in the Buz Kandahari Village in the vicinity of Kunduz.

Civilian men, women and children were "likely inside the buildings from which the Taliban were firing," the NATO report said, adding that two U.S. troops and three Afghan commandoes had also been killed in the firefight.

Following the attack, angry local people took corpses to the local governor's offices to show their anger and staged a protest demonstration.

Three days after the violence, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) censured the loss of civilian lives



Afghan villagers mourn the victim of a U.S.-led attack in the Buz Kandahari Village in Kunduz, Afghanistan, November 4, 2016.

during the U.S.-led operation in the village and announced that it had launched an investigation into

the incident. The findings of the UN probe are due to be released by the end of this month.

Turkey MPs Approve More Articles Of Constitutional Reform Bill

ANKARA (Dispatches) – The Turkish Parliament has approved more articles of a constitutional reform package backed by the president that will accord unprecedented executive powers to the head of state.

The legislators had started debating the package on Monday, and had so far approved its first two articles. They voted 'Yes' to three more out of the 18 articles of the package on Friday.

The debate is expected to take less

than 10 more days. Upon potential approval by the lawmakers, it would be put to referendum.

The package will throw out the country's parliamentary system, introducing a presidential one.

Under the new mechanism, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would be allowed to serve two five-year tenures. With the exception of his current mandate, he could thus be leading the country until 2029, with the next elections being scheduled

for 2019.

He would also be empowered to appoint and dismiss officials at will and abolish the position of prime minister.

The statesman would also be able to return to the leadership of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), which he himself has founded.

The AKP has only 316 deputies eligible to vote on the bill, which needs 330 'Yes' votes at every parliamentary hurdle. The party, therefore, re-

lies on its allies from the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) in advancing the proposed legislation.

The proposed reform package has been met with strong opposition from the Turkish legislature's second- and third-biggest parties, the Republican People's Party (CHP) and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

Critics say such changes to the constitution lead to totalitarianism as it places too much power in the hands of the president.

Spain King Due in Riyadh To Secure Lucrative Warship Deal

MADRID (Press TV) – Spain's monarch is due in Saudi Arabia to reportedly help secure a lucrative warship deal with Riyadh, which has been under fire by rights groups for its bloody war against neighboring Yemen.

King Felipe VI will start the three-day visit of the kingdom on Saturday at the invitation of Saudi King Salman.

The visit takes place in the light of a prospective contract to sell Avante 2200 corvettes, which can be equipped with missile systems and helicopter launch pads, for an estimated \$2.1 billion, Spanish media say.

"We can only confirm that negotiations are very advanced to build five warships which would be sold to the Saudi navy," a spokesman for state-owned Spanish ship builder Navantia said.

Spain is the fourth biggest arms exporter to Saudi Arabia and seventh largest arms exporter in the world. According to the Brussels-based Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security, Spain's arms exports to other countries rose by 55 percent in 2011-15.

The Spanish and Saudi royal families have maintained an ex-

ceptionally-close relationship for several years, which has led to closer economic ties between the two countries.

In 2011, Former king Juan Carlos, Felipe's father, reportedly played a crucial role in securing a \$7-billion contract for a Spanish consortium to build a high-speed railway in the kingdom.

The new arms deal is not considered a done deal yet. On the one hand, Riyadh is currently slashing its expenditures and, on the other hand, Spain has to compete with France which seeks to sell another type of navy ship to the oil-rich kingdom.

Rights groups argue that Spain's prospective arms deal with Saudi Arabia would be illegal under the international law, as the Saudi kingdom is currently committing war crimes in its military campaign, which killed thousands of Yemenis.

The Saudi war on Yemen, which has reportedly killed at least 11,400 Yemenis, was launched in an unsuccessful attempt to reinstate the former government. The war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's facilities and infrastructure, destroying many hospitals, schools and factories.