

# UN Shocked by Bahrain's Execution of Activists

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The United Nations has expressed distress at the execution of three Shia Muslim activists in Bahrain over their alleged role in killing policemen during a pro-democracy demonstration.

“We are appalled at the execution by firing squad of three men in Bahrain on Sunday,” UN human rights commissioner spokesman Rupert Colville said in a statement.

Colville noted that the defendants’ confessions were supposedly obtained under torture, and that their lawyers were not given access to all the evidence against them nor allowed to cross-examine prosecution witnesses.

“We again urge Bahrain to impose a moratorium on the use of death penalty,” the top UN official said, adding that Manama should work to “abolish the death penalty definitively.”

Colville added there were “serious doubts whether the accused were provided with the right to fair trial.”

On January 15, Bahrain executed Abbas al-Samea, 27, Sami Mushaima, 42, and Ali al-Singace, 21, by firing squad. The killings came a week after the Court of Cassation upheld death sentences against the trio after finding them guilty of killing three policemen, including an Emirati officer, in the northern village of al-Daih back in March 2014.

Anti-regime protesters have taken to the streets on an almost daily basis ever since the popular uprising began in Bahrain in February 2011.



People protest against the ruling Al Khalifah regime over the recent execution of three Shia Muslim activists in Bahrain on January 17, 2016.

The demonstrators are demanding that the Al Khalifah family relinquish power and let a just system representing all Bahrainis be established.

Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others wounded or detained amid Manama’s crackdown on dissent and widespread discrimination against the country’s Shia majority.

A video, which has resurfaced on the Internet, shows hooligans ransacking a store while security forces look on and even film the incident without trying to stop the raid.

The video, which was initially released in April 2012, has gone viral in the wake of the Manama regime’s executions of three anti-regime Shia activists.

The video shows some hooligans storming a big supermarket with the support of security forces, while an officer is seen filming the incident and later ordering a thug to break down the CCTV camera.

This as reports say the kingdom has employed 750 mercenaries and hooligans to suppress dissent in the tiny Persian Gulf country.

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Shamkhani also confirmed on Wednesday that Iran had refused to invite the U.S.

“There is no reason for the United States to participate in the organising of political initiatives in the Syrian crisis and it is out of the question that they should have a role in the Astana negotiations,” he said, according to the official IRNA news agency.

In his address to the WEF, Zarif touched on the situation in Syria, and lauded a cessation of hostilities that has been holding in the Arab country since last month.

He said the upcoming talks on Syria in the Kazakh city of Astana would be aimed at expanding the ceasefire agreement in the conflict-hit country.

“What we need to do at the international level is to help the Syrians reach the stage of starting to talk to each other, and I believe the first step has been taken by Iran, Russia and Turkey in bringing about a cessation of hostilities” that has been holding for “over a month and that is the best record that is available in the past five... years of the Syrian conflict.”

“We hope that in Astana, this can be expanded, we hope that the ceasefire will incorporate all of Syria,” he added.

Zarif also warned against jumping to any conclusions before the start of the negotiations in Astana.

“We should not try to pre-judge the outcome of political negotiations before we even start political negotiations. What is important for everybody is to recognize there is no military solution in Syria,” he said, expressing hope that all the parties that signed the Syria ceasefire agreement “will come to Astana with a view to ending hostilities for a longer term and also starting a political process.”

Zarif said the Astana talks would discuss the principles of a peace process based on Syria’s unity and territorial integrity as well as an inclusive government, but he stressed that only the Syrians must determine the future fate of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

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murkiest and most discreditable kind,” Blunt, who was also identified in the tapes as one of the MPs on Masot’s “hit list”, told MEE.

Al Jazeera’s undercover recordings also raised issues about recent cases of allegations of anti-Semitism within the Labor Party. One episode examined how a party activist who raised questions concerning illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank with Joan Ryan, the chair of the Labor Friends of Israel (LFI) lobby group, became the subject of an anti-Semitism complaint.

The activist, identified in the documentary as Jean, was subsequently cleared.

Labor last year conducted an internal inquiry into anti-Semitism within the party following a series of reports of allegedly anti-Semitic incidents after Corbyn, a supporter of the Boycott, Divestment and

Sanctions (BDS) movement, became leader in 2015.

The Jewish Chronicle newspaper reported on Tuesday that the party’s national executive committee (NEC) disputes panel had cleared two members of the Oxford University Labor Club who had been accused of anti-Semitism in complaints raised by Zionist students.

The Al Jazeera documentary contained footage in which Michael Rubin, the parliamentary officer for LFI, who also talked about working “really close together behind the scenes” with the Israeli embassy, said that he had conducted the investigation into the Oxford anti-Semitism allegations in his former role as the chair of Labor Students.

## Egyptians... (Continued From Page One)

also ran an article on popular Saudi cleric Mohamad al-Arifi apparently threatening war against Egypt if the Islands weren’t turned over - but the piece was denounced as “fake news” by one media pundit.

Alleged Israeli machinations were also drawn into the debate with pro-government TV host Ahmed el-Muslimani accusing the Zionist regime of drawing Egypt and Saudi into a war against it: “Suppose Israel occupied the islands after they are handed over to Saudi Arabia, what will happen?”

The case against the government was led by leftist lawyer Khaled Ali, with help from the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR) that he used to head.

Ali, a former presidential candidate in 2012, made his name in the Mubarak era as an advocate for labor rights.

The ECESR, which Ali used to head, also published a detailed, 121-page document on the Red Sea islands dispute.

The pro-opposition al-Sharq TV channel also produced a 30-minute documentary claiming the Red Sea islands as Egyptian.

The TV channel was reportedly bought by Ayman Nour, a leading liberal Egyptian opposition figure who was imprisoned for four years by former president Hosni Mubarak for running against him in 2005.

Former MP and current anti-Sisi activist Hatem Azzam tweeted: “The findings of the Supreme Administrative Court’s ruling proving Tiran and Sanafir are Egyptian can be used as a basis for prosecuting Sisi and his government for high treason.”

The April 6th Youth Movement echoed the call, saying: “The ruling power should offer its resignation and yield to the court on the charge of high treason and conspiring to sell part of the nation.”

One Egyptian wrote on Twitter: “The verdict does not prove that Tiran and Sanafir are Egyptian, rather it proved that Sisi and his media and the heads of the general intelligence service and army are traitors and foreign agents.”

Another said: “Tiran and Sanafir are Egyptian by order of the people. If we have justice we will release the youth who were imprisoned because of Tiran and Sanafir, and kiss their hands and compensate them for their days in prison.”

# Zionist Troops Kill 2 More Palestinians



Zionist troops gather at the site where a Palestinian who allegedly attempted to stab a Zionist trooper was shot dead near the West Bank settlement of Ofra on November 3, 2016.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – At least two more Palestinians have been killed and several others injured as tensions between Zionist troops and illegal settlers on the one side and Palestinian protesters on the other continue in the occupied territories.

Zionist troops raided the Pales-

tinian village of Umm al-Hayran in the Negev desert early on Wednesday to demolish a number of Palestinian houses there, prompting fierce scuffles with local residents, Arabic-language al-Aqsa television network reported.

The regime claimed the houses were being built without permits

issued by the occupying regime.

Zionist troops fired tear gas canisters, stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd. Two villagers were fatally shot, and four others sustained gunshot wounds.

Ayman Odeh, a Palestinian member of the Israeli parliament (Knesset) who currently serves as the head of the Arab-dominated political alliance Joint List, was shot in the head and injured during the melee.

Odeh was taken to Suruka Hospital in the southern city of Beersheva to receive medical treatment.

Palestinian sources later identified one of the fatalities as Yaqoub Moussa Abu al-Qayaan. They said Qayaan was shot dead as he sought to prevent the regime’s troops from entering the village.

Zionist troops later declared Umm al-Hayran a closed military zone, and imposed a curfew on it. Military equipment and reinforcements were sent to the area as well.

The development came only a few hours after they carried out an

attack on the Qalandiya refugee camp north of al-Quds.

Reports say the Zionist troops used tear gas and live bullets as clashes broke out between residents and the troops inside the camp.

Witnesses said Zionist troops prevented local medical staff from taking the injured to a nearby hospital. The troops also demolished two Palestinian homes near the place.

Meanwhile, an Israeli settler ran over a four-year-old Palestinian girl in the southern West Bank city of al-Khalil, located 30 kilometers south of al-Quds, on Tuesday evening.

Locals said Layan Ayed al-Razem was crossing the street in the Jabal Jales area of the city when she was hit.

Palestinian medical sources at al-Ahli Hospital in al-Khalil said the little girl was admitted with “bruises all over her body, mainly on her right leg.” They added that she is in a stable condition.

# Yemeni Forces Block Saudi-Backed Militants’ Advances in al-Bayda

SANAA (Dispatches) – The Yemeni army and popular forces blocked Saudi-backed militants’ advance in al-Bayda province, informed military sources said on Wednesday.

“The Saudi-backed mercenaries were trying to get into several strategic regions in al-Bayda province, but the Yemeni forces stopped them,” the Arabic-language Sabanet news agency quoted an unnamed military source as saying.

The source reiterated that the Yemeni forces killed and injured scores of Riyadh-backed militants in Zi Naem region of al-Bayda province.

Earlier on Wednesday, other military sources disclosed that scores of Saudi-backed militants were killed and scores of others, including a senior commander, were injured in tough battle with the Yemeni army and popular forces in the city of Sana’a earlier in the day.

“At least 35 Saudi-backed militants were killed and 68 others, including Commander of the Brigade 310 Mohammad al-Soudi al-Moin, were injured in fierce clashes with the Yemeni forces in the Ninth district of Sana’a city,” the Arabic-language news agency quoted an unnamed military source as saying.

The source noted that the Riyadh-backed militants intended to get into Ya’am mountains in Sana’a’s Ninth District.

In another development on Tuesday, the Yemeni army and popular forces continued their advances in Shabwah province, killing over 30 Saudi-backed militants.



Saudi soldiers are seen at a military point on the border with Yemen.

“At least 37 Riyadh-backed militants loyal to former fugitive President Mansour Hadi were killed in Asilan region of Shabwah province,” a military source said.

The source said that 23 other Saudi-hired mercenaries were also wounded in fierce clashes with the Yemeni forces.