

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Media sources said the Syrian army soldiers stopped and seized on Sunday a vehicle of terrorists loaded with a large cache of munitions, including British missiles, in Damascus countryside. The Arabic language al-Hadath news quoted a military source as saying that the soldiers seized a pickup vehicle of the terrorists with four Britain-made missiles and over 200 boxes of heavy and semi-heavy ammunition and guns.

Who are you to abuse the world when it has openly declared its mortality and mortality of everything connected with it, when it has given everyone of its inhabitants to understand that all of them are to face death.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

'One-Third of Western Mosul Retaken From Daesh'

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi forces have so far managed to liberate over a third of western Mosul from the grip of Daesh terrorists in their operation to purge the city of the terrorists, a senior commander says.

"More than a third of the right bank (west Mosul) is under the control of our units," Staff Major General Maan al-Saadi, of Iraq's Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS), said on Sunday.

Saadi also noted that CTS forces were fighting in the western Mosul areas of al-Jadida and al-Aghawat, stressing that the battle was expected to be completed shortly.

The commander, however, admitted that advancing against terrorists was difficult.

"We are not able to leave pockets (of terrorists) behind us; therefore, the advance includes taking control of areas and searching and clearing them and security checks on the citizens," he said.

Tunnels left behind by Daesh terrorists under an ancient mosque in the Iraqi city of Mosul indicate that the terrorists took care to preserve



Iraqi government forces, supported by fighters from Popular Mobilization Units, advance towards the cement plant in the village of Badush, some 15 kilometers northwest of Mosul, during a battle to retake the city's west from Daesh terrorists on March 9, 2017.

artifacts for loot, in contrast to their trademark destruction of antiquities.

The terrorists seized the Mosque of Prophet Jonah when they stormed through northern Iraq three years ago and blew it up in July 2014.

The mosque had been built over the reputed burial site of the biblical prophet revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims who know him as Nabi Yunis.

Experts surveying the damage after it was recaptured in January found a network of tunnels dug by the terrorists, leading down to a 7th century BC Assyrian palace.

According to Musab Mohammed Jassim from the Nineveh Antiquities and Heritage Department, the tunnels showed that a vast range of ancient collectables of the King Esarhaddon palace had been looted.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Joint Operations Command (JOC) announced that forces from the Rapid Response Division and the federal police were attacking the Bab al-Toub area on the edge of Mosul's Old City.

JOC spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Rasool said the terrorists were "still relying on explosives-rigged vehicles and ... bombers and snipers" in a bid to slow the Iraqi advance.

He also ensured that the Mosul liberation operation was being conducted with precision to preserve the lives of Iraqi citizens, adding Daesh resistance "has begun to weaken in a big way."

On Saturday, Iraqi fighters from pro-government Popular Mobilization Units, commonly known by the Arabic word Hashd al-Sha'abi, found a mass grave at Badush prison, which contained the remains of at least 600 people killed by Daesh.

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'U.S.-Led Coalition Airstrike Kills 10 Civilians in Syria'

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – At least 10 civilians lost their lives on Sunday when the U.S.-led coalition purportedly fighting Daesh in Syria carried out an airstrike against a terrorist-held area in the country's northern province of Aleppo, local sources say.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the aerial attack targeted the town of Maskanah, located 100 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital city of Aleppo, Arabic-language Qasioun Agency news outlet reported.

The report said ten people were killed and several others injured in the air raid.

The Britain-based so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) also reported that U.S.-led military aircraft had launched a series of attacks against the villages of Qabtan al-Jabal, Kafr Hamrah and Yaqid al-Adas in the northwestern suburbs of Aleppo.

The monitoring group, however, did not provide any figures for possible casualties.

The development came only two days after 30 people, including six women and eight children, lost their lives when coalition fighter jets pounded Matab al-Borashid village near Syria's Daesh-held northern city of al-Raqqah.

SOHR reported that there were six Daesh extremists among those killed in the aerial bombardment.

Meanwhile, Syria has called on all

participants of the Geneva and Astana peace talks to distance themselves from terrorist organizations.

Syria's Foreign Ministry made the call on Saturday in a letter sent to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the UN Security Council, in which it demanded the condemnation of two deadly bombings that hit the capital earlier in the day.

At least 46 people, most of them Iraqis, were killed in two bomb attacks near the Bab al-Saghir cemetery in the Bab Masala area of Damascus.

The letter went on to condemn the "cowardly" attack which coincided with a series of mortar and rocket attacks on the city that resulted in a large number of casualties.

It added that such actions are carried out in retaliation for gains made by the army against the Daesh and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham terrorist groups across the country.

It also called for countries which back these terrorist organizations, especially Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, and some Western states to halt all manners of support.

The first round of the Astana talks, organized by guarantor states Iran, Russia, and Turkey, took place on January 23-24 and brought together representatives from the Damascus government and opposition groups. The second round of the negotiations, similarly brokered by the trio, was held on February 15-16.

Saudi Airstrike Kills More Civilians in Western Yemen



Yemenis check the site of a Saudi air raid that hit a funeral reception in the Arhab District north of the capital Sana'a on February 16, 2017.

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi warplanes have killed three people in the west-central Yemeni province of Sana'a.

The Sunday attack targeted a car in a residential area of the prov-

ince's Nihm district where two other people also suffered injuries.

Since March 2015, the Saudi Royal Air Force has been pounding targets across Yemen to bring the country's former government

back to power.

The government resigned earlier that year amid political instability. Its head Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is strictly allied with Riyadh, fled to the Saudi capital in spite of appeals to him to stay. He returned to the southern city of Aden after a few months.

Over 12,000 have died since the onset of the Saudi invasion.

Meanwhile, senior U.S. military officials warned President Donald Trump, who has ducked responsibility for a botched January raid in Yemen, that there were "inherent risks" with the operation before he authorized the plan, according to a report.

The military has completed its review of the January 29 raid in al-Bayda province, which led to the death of several civilians and a Navy SEAL as well as the loss of a military aircraft worth \$75 million.

Trump tried to distance himself from the raid by emphasizing that the operation had been in the works long before he took office. "This was a mission that was started before I got here," he said in an interview with Fox News last month.

The president also blamed his "respected" generals for losing SEAL Ryan Owens.

However, several officials with knowledge of the after-action review told CNN that Trump had discussed the plan with his top military advisers a number of times.

The president, according to a White House official, first learned of the plan on January 25, days after his inauguration. The new secretary of defense, James Mattis, had already approved the military operation by the time Trump came to know of it, the official added.

Thousands March in Occupied Territories Against 'Muezzin' Bill



A Palestinian boy holds a placard as he marches in the Palestinian town of Kabul during a demonstration against planned Zionist legislation aimed at silencing mosques on March 11, 2017.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Thousands of Palestinians have taken part in protests against a controversial bill approved by the Zionist regime aimed at silencing the Muslim call to prayer.

On Saturday, some 3,000 people gathered in town of Kabul in the occupied territories where they chanted slogans against Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and held signs which read, "The muezzin law won't pass" or "Don't silence the muezzin."

"We will continue to sound our calls to prayer, we'll even increase the volume of our muezzins," said a local imam.

On Wednesday, the Zionist regime's parliament, Knesset, gave its preliminary approval to the

"muezzin" bill which would ban Muslim calls to prayer from being announced from loudspeakers at mosques in occupied Palestine.

"This law is an advanced form of racial incitement against the Palestinians," said the Palestinian Foreign Ministry in an earlier statement. "It encourages the dissemination of hatred between the followers of divine religions in Palestine -- it is against the culture of tolerance and peace," it added.

If the law is passed, it will be enforced in East al-Quds and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories apart from around the al-Aqsa Mosque. Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest site for Muslims after Masjid al-Haram in Mecca and Masjid al-Nabawi in Medina.

HRW:

Bahraini Regime Revoked Citizenship of 133 Dissidents in 2016

MANAMA (Press TV) – Human Rights Watch has expressed deep concern over the high number of citizenship revocations in Bahrain, condemning the ruling Al Khalifah regime's heavy-handed crackdown on political dissidents and rights activist in the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom.

UN Advocate at the HRW office in Geneva Laila Matar told Arabic-language LuaLua television network that the international organization had recorded 133 cases of citizenship revocation in Bahrain last year, noting that the move came in response to the victims' criticism of the Manama regime.

Matar added that Human Rights Watch was gravely concerned about military trials for civilians.

"We don't believe trying civilians should be in whether civil or military courts, because there is a problem with fair trial procedures



Photo taken on February 13, 2015 shows Bahraini protesters taking cover from tear gas during clashes with police following a demonstration on February 13, 2015, to mark the fourth anniversary of uprising.

in both courts," she said.

On March 5, the Consultative Council, the upper house of the Bahraini parliament, vot-

ed for the measure less than two weeks after it was approved by the Council of Representatives, the lower house.

The move saw Manama manipulating part of its constitution, which defines the identities of those who can stand trial at such courts.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the kingdom on February 14, 2011.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah dynasty relinquish power and a just system representing all Bahrainis be established.

Manama has spared no effort to clamp down on the dissent and rights activists. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to Bahrain to assist the Manama government in its crackdown on peaceful protesters.