

President Assad: West Can't Stand Independent Syria

DAMASCU.S. (Press TV) – Syria's president says Western countries started supporting anti-Damascus militants because they could not bear to see the Arab country leading an independent existence.

Bashar al-Assad made the remarks in a meeting with a visiting delegation of Greek parliamentarians in the Syrian capital on Tuesday, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

"The problem of many Western states' leaders with Syria is that it has an independent decision, and so they supported terrorists to weaken it and make it a satellite state," Assad said.

He said the U.S.-led campaign in Syria, which purports to be targeting ISIL, has boomeranged in the face of the West for sparing the Takfiri terrorist group and striking the Syrian people instead.

Earlier in the month, the Syrian Foreign Ministry said French warplanes had targeted the village of Tukhan al-Kubra on the outskirts of the northern city of Manbij, killing 120 civilians. The fatalities came a day after a U.S. airstrike killed 20 civilians in Manbij, it said. Both



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (R) meets with a member of a Greek parliamentary delegation in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

airstrikes were conducted under the U.S.-led coalition command.

"There are many lessons that the region and the world can learn from the terrorist war that targets the Syrian people," the Syrian head of state said.

"The proof of that is the wave

of terrorism that struck in several states in Europe and the world recently," Assad said, referring to several attacks across the U.S. and Europe over the past two years that have been claimed by ISIL.

The U.S.-led coalition has been bombarding Syria since September

2014 without authorization from Damascus or the United Nations. Analysts say the U.S.-led campaign has failed to dislodge the terrorists, who have seized parts of land in Iraq and Syria and are engaged in crimes against humanity in the areas under their control.

ISIL's Offensive Repulsed by Syrian Democratic Forces in Manbij

DAMASCU.S. (FNA) – The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), mainly comprised of Kurdish fighters, repelled ISIL's attacks on their positions in the Southern side of the town of Manbij in Northeastern Aleppo.

The SDF fighters fended off ISIL's assaults near the village of Eilan.

The ISIL left behind at least 12 dead members dead and several

more wounded ones and pulled back the remaining pockets of it forces from the battlefield.

In the meantime, the SDF fighters launched a rapid counter-attack and targeted two ISIL's vehicles and bases in the Southern flank of Eilan, claiming the lives of all terrorists inside the vans.

Local sources said on Tuesday that

SIL terrorists were planting a large number of bombs and landmines in Manbij's houses, shops, schools and other public places to detonate them while retreating from their positions.

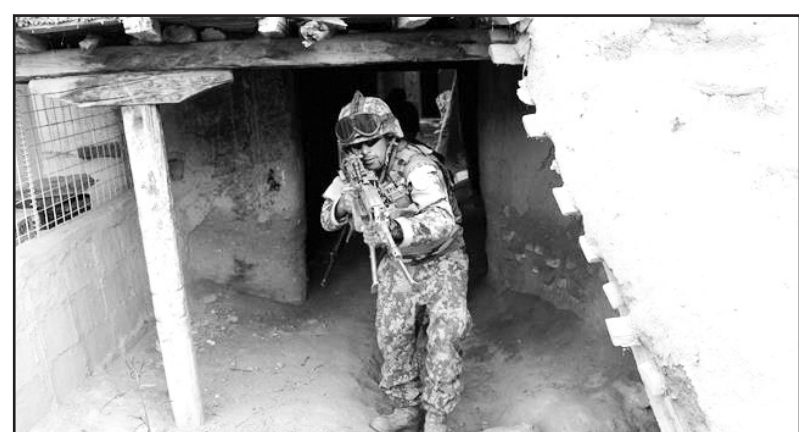
"ISIL forced us to leave our houses in Central Manbij and moved us toward the neighborhood of al-Kajli, and then planted a large number of bombs in our houses and shops," the

sources said.

"We were under the siege of ISIL terrorists in al-Kajli for at least a month. ISIL's snipers would shoot those who tried to escape their captivity," they further added.

At least 60 residents of Manbij were in a cellar for almost four days without drinking water and food, until the SDF fighters saved them.

120 ISIL Terrorists Killed in Afghanistan's Nangarhar



A member of the Afghan security forces takes part in a patrol during clashes with the Takfiri ISIL terrorists in Kot, Nangarhar province.

KABUL (Dispatches) – At least 120 members of the Takfiri ISIL terrorist group have been killed in an Afghan army

offensive in the northern province of Nangarhar.

The offensive comes against the back-

drop of the July 23 deadly bombings in the capital Kabul, where at least 80 people were killed. Daesh claimed the terrorist attack at a gathering of the Shia Hazara minority as they protested against a major power line project.

Officials in Nangarhar said Tuesday that the offensive was carried out in the mountainous district of Kot, a main stronghold of the Takfiri group where it has set up courts and training camps.

Provincial spokesman Attaullah Khojyani said Afghan troops seized large parts of the area and killed Saad Emarati, a local ISIL commander.

Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish also said, "They have been taught a lesson for their crimes. We will wipe out IS (ISIL)

from Nangarhar."

ISIL said after the Kabul carnage that it targeted members of the Shia minority for their support for the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Syrian forces have made major advances against ISIL over the past few months, purging the terrorists from some key areas east and northeast of the country.

The rise of ISIL in Afghanistan has already triggered concerns in a country which has been torn apart by decades of Taliban-led militancy and the 2001 invasion of the U.S. and its allies. ISIL has also capitalized on splits emerging among the ranks of the Taliban since the news broke last year of the death of the Taliban founder and long-time leader Mullah Omar.

French ...

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He made the remarks after two knife-wielding men took a number of people hostage at a church in the Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray town of France's northern Normandy region and slit the throat of an elderly priest.

The two assailants were later shot and killed by police officers. After the incident, Amaq news agency, which is affiliated to the Takfiri terrorist group, announced that two of its members had carried out the attack.

The assault was the latest in a wave of attacks in Europe inspired by Daesh terrorist group, mainly based in Iraq and Syria.

Hollande said France should "use all its means" within the law to fight Daesh, adding the war on the terrorist group would be "long" both abroad and at home.

"The government is applying and will apply, with the most extreme firmness, the laws we voted and which give the justice system, police commissioners, police forces and intelligence services, the capacity to act, all this amplified by the extension and reinforcement of the state of emergency."

A state of emergency has been in place in France since last November, when assailants struck at least six different venues in and around the capital, Paris, leaving 130 people dead and over 350 others injured.

The city of Nice also saw a deadly assault on July 14, when 84 people were killed. Daesh claimed responsibility for both acts of terror.

Last week, the French parliament extended the state of emergency for another six months.

The Hollande administration is under fire for what is said to be security failings. It stands accused of not doing enough to protect the population.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls has warned that more attacks by Takfiri terrorists may hit France.

Paris has been supporting militant groups fighting the Syrian government and French policies have been blamed for the rise of terror groups in Syria and Iraq.

In February, the European Union's criminal intelligence agency Europol said up to 5,000 trained members of Daesh were at large in Europe.

Some 30,000 militants from over 100 countries have reportedly traveled to Syria and Iraq since 2011 to join the ranks of Takfiri terrorist groups.

Eager to see the back of the Syrian government, many European countries initially turned a blind eye to the flow of citizens to the Middle East, ignoring warnings that they would return someday and hit back at home.

Protests ...

(Continued From Page One)

make his way from the coffee shop towards his apartment but after a foot chase, police nabbed him face down on a pool of blood.

They beat him repeatedly by a baton and spraying pepper on his eyes, while dozens of horrified bystanders watched the horrific scene.

The severely-injured Muslim was then taken to the Ottawa Hospital, but he succumbed to his wounds and passed away, hours after his bloody arrest on Monday.

A video recorded by an eye witness showed the aftermath of Abdi's violent arrest, when he was lying face down on the ground in a bloodied shirt, with his hands cuffed behind his back.

A protest over Abdi's death and police handling of the incident was planned for Wednesday in Montreal.

Ontario's police watchdog, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), announced that it had launched an investigation into Abdi's death, which could take months.

This is while the local police chief

has stood by his team saying he supports their actions.

"This is a heartbreaking loss and our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Abdi's family at this difficult time," said Ihsaan Gardee, executive director of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM).

"Many members of the Ottawa Muslim and Somali communities have serious concerns about how this tragic incident unfolded, including whether prejudice had something to do with Mr. Abdi's treatment," he said.

The black and Aboriginal communities are targeted at a greater per capita rate than the rest of Canadian society.

It is by no means the first time Canadian police are involved in killing an immigrant.

In July 2015, a Toronto police officer gunned down 45-year-old Andrew Loku, a mentally ill immigrant from South Sudan, in his apartment. The officer, however, was not charged.

The most publicized case, however, was the 2013 death of Sammy Yatim, who was shot eight times and then Tasered. The officer who shot him was found guilty of attempted murder in January.

Week-Long ...

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In late June, Jean-Marc Janaillac, the chief executive of the Air France-KLM group, warded off a pilots' strike that would have been the second such stoppage during the Euro football tournament.

The pilots' last strike, which grounded about 20% of flights from 11-14 June, hit France as it was gripped by social unrest over a series of disputed labor reforms from the Socialist government.

A pilot strike last month cost Air France almost 40 million euros (\$44 million). Air France-KLM Chief Financial Officer Pierre-François Riolacci Wednesday said the cabin crew strike would likely cost more and he expected strike costs to reach "several dozen million euros."

Urmia ...

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The algae Dunaliella salina was previously implicated by researchers for staining Lake Urmia blood red in earlier years, Muhammad Tourian, a scientist at the University of Stuttgart in Germany, said in a statement.

"In conditions of high salinity and light intensity, the microalgae turns red due to the production of protective carotenoids in the cells," he said.

However, NASA's Earth Observatory added in a statement, salt-loving bacteria Halobacteriaceae could also be the guilty party. Halobacteriaceae produces a ruby pigment, and if the bacteria's populations are big enough, they can redden large bodies of water.

In fact, microbial miscreants have left scarlet stains in waters elsewhere around the world.

U.S. ...

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"We've got an election coming up in Iran," he said. "These will be positive signals, that, you know, this is a different era."

The congressman said that "the odds are very strong that there will be change" in Iran.

Panelist Toni Verstandig, executive vice president at the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, also stressed the economic impact that the Boeing sale would have on America.

"Let there be no mistake, Boeing doesn't sell these planes, it has such profound residual effect ... it hits Ohio really, really hard," she said.

Gunmen Kill 2 Pakistani Soldiers in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (Press TV) – Heavily armed assailants shot dead at least two soldiers Tuesday in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, security and medical sources said.

Raja Umar Khattab, a senior counter-terrorism police officer, said a military vehicle came under attack while patrolling the busy Saddar district.

The official added that two gunmen apparently escaped on a motorbike after firing several shots at the vehicle. "The attackers were on a motorcycle and managed to escape through the congested narrow lanes."

Medical sources at Karachi's Jinnah Hospital confirmed that multiple bullets hit both slain soldiers in the shoulder, neck and head. One of the

troops died on the spot while the other died in the hospital.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but officials usually blame such assaults on pro-Taliban militants.

Karachi, the capital of Sindh province, has been wracked by political, ethnic and sectarian violence over the past two and a half decades.

According to statistics compiled by the Sindh provincial police, of the 1,019 killings in Karachi last year 70 were policemen. So far in 2016, 390 people have died in targeted killings in the city.

In June 2014, a deadly raid on Jinnah International Airport in Karachi ended the government's faltering



Pakistani soldiers examine an army vehicle at the site of an attack by gunmen in Karachi.

peace talks with pro-Taliban militants. Since then, Islamabad has been

engaged in a major offensive against militant hideouts.