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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

U.S. Airstrikes Killing More Civilians in Syria

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

According to the Pentagon officials and latest media reports, U.S. airstrikes continue to kill defenceless civilians in northern Syria, particularly in and around the city of Manbij, which has been a major target of U.S. strikes over the past two months.

Overall, the U.S. strikes have killed well over 300 civilians since the offensive began in May.

Human rights groups have warned that the number of civilians killed in the area is "rising dramatically," and demand that the U.S.-led coalition "stop targeting neighbourhoods with civilians," saying such attacks aren't acceptable even if ISIL fighters are present.

This is while according to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's foreign policy adviser, she would order a "full review" of the Syrian war as her first task upon taking office, with an eye toward a "reset" of the conflict to shift focus toward attacking the Assad government and imposing regime change.

Syria has been the subject of a lot of debate in the Obama Administration, with the Pentagon seeking a focus on ISIL, the CIA wanting to shift entirely to fighting President Assad, and Secretary of State John Kerry negotiating a deal with Russia to expand the war to include Al-Qaeda's Nusra Front.

The Obama Administration has already been steadily escalating the war since it began, to little effect, and Clinton's policy would be that, just more so:

-The high civilian death toll is not going to change the terrible situation on the ground. The Pentagon might admit its air war has killed civilians, but that doesn't necessarily mean the beheading-friendly alliance will stop the bombing campaign any time soon.

-Non-combatant deaths have been going on for months and the U.S. military's admission ignores widely available evidence. Despite the denial, images and details of civilian deaths circulating on social media suggest the attacks have killed a large number of civilians. Watchdog groups warn that many more civilian casualties have gone uncounted.

-The coalition has carried out several thousand airstrikes, in thesis to "degrade and ultimately destroy" ISIL. Yet the terrorist group is still there, and even if it is destroyed, the Clinton advisors say the "Assad-must-go" mob will extend the air campaign to push for regime change in Damascus.

-Most residential areas being bombed are occupied by ISIL - many of them mercenaries, lavishly supported by assorted wealthy Wahhabis in Saudi Arabia and across the Persian Gulf. As a consequence, civic society has collapsed and local people live in fear of retaliation for speaking out. Even so, evidence linking the coalition to non-combatant deaths is compelling - which the Pentagon has now conceded.

Altogether, the U.S.-led air war has failed. Iraq and Syria are still in ruins and more strikes will only make the current situation worse. A better option would be for the regime changers to reverse policy, pack up and leave. Syria has what it takes to defeat the foreign-backed terror machine on its own.

Nigeria Notified of Iran's Worries Over Zakzaky

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran has communicated to Nigeria its serious concern about the continued detention and dire health condition of a leading Nigerian Shia leader, Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky.

Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif notified authorities in Nigeria of Iran's concerns during his visit to the African country earlier in the week, according to an Iranian delegate who accompanied Zarif to Nigeria.

"While meeting with Nigerian authorities, including the president and foreign minister, Dr. Zarif expressed serious concern as to Zakzaky's physical condition," said Iranian cleric Ali Fallah Zaroumi, who accompanied the Iranian delegation as a representative of the Iran-based Al-Mustafa International University.

The Iranian top diplomat also "sternly demanded Zakzaky's freedom as a person who has invited all Muslim sects toward preserving unity among each other," Zaroumi added. The Nigerian clergyman's freedom would indeed positively affect the struggle against extremists such as Boko Haram, Zarif told Nigerian authorities, who have been caught in a seven-year-long insurgency waged by the group denounced by various Muslim community.

On December 13, 2015, Nigerian forces raided the home of Zakzaky, who leads the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), and arrested him after killing those attempting to protect him.

A day earlier, soldiers had attacked Shia Muslims attending a ceremony at a religious center in the city of Zaria in north-central Nigeria, accusing them of blocking the convoy of the army's chief of staff and attempting to assassinate him, which they denied.

Both incidents led to the deaths of hundreds of members of the religious community, including three of Zakzaky's sons. Some sources have put the toll at over 1,000.

Saudis Fail to Mobilize Arabs Against Iran



Arab leaders attend the opening session of the Arab summit in Nouakchott, July 25, 2016.

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Iran has slammed the Saudi regime for pushing ahead with its "divisive policies" in a recent Arab League summit, saying the outcome of the meeting showed Riyadh has failed to muster support against Iran.

"A statement issued separately by a four-way committee of the Arab League against our country on the sidelines of the recent summit in Mauritania shows the failure of the Saudis in building consensus," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Thursday.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry closely monitored all the developments in this summit, the documents that were issued as well as the actions of certain countries" during the Mauritania meeting, Qassemi added.

The latest Arab League summit opened in Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott, on Friday, with only a handful of the 22-nation organization in attendance.

The forum is said to be the most

poorly-attended summit of the Arab League, which is highly influenced by Saudi Arabia.

The lack of participation led to the meeting being cut to a single day, in what analysts say is proof of a growing rift among member states of the Cairo-based organization over regional issues.

However, reports say during the forum, the past initiatives, among them plans to establish a joint force to confront "Iran's spreading power," failed to gather steam.

The summit's ending statement refused what it called "external interference in Arab affairs by Iran."

Qassemi further warned the "few countries" that continue to back Saudi Arabia's "divisive policies," stressing that such support "would lead nowhere in the future, except that these countries will have a share in Riyadh's responsibility for crimes such as child killings and terror support."

The Iranian official further slammed the Saudi regime for forcing other

states into supporting its hostile approach in Yemen, Syria and Bahrain.

Riyadh has betrayed the Arab world by openly forming an alliance with the occupying regime of Israel, said the Iranian official, stressing that the poor participation in the recent summit was a result of such Saudi policies.

Under the new Saudi rulers, Riyadh has adopted an aggressive policy toward Iran and its allies, which are helping Syria and Iraq in their fight against terrorism.

Riyadh cut diplomatic ties with Iran in January. Under Saudi pressure, some of the kingdom's allies, including Bahrain, also followed its lead and

The Holy Qur'an



And on the day when He will gather them as though they had not stayed but an hour of the day, they will know each other. They will perish indeed who called the meeting with Allah to be a lie, and they are not followers of the right direction.

The Holy Qur'an (10.45)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:11
Evening (Maghreb)	20:09
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:34
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:12

severed relations with Iran.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is widely known as a staunch supporter of the terror groups operating in Syria.

The clerics in the kingdom freely preach Wahhabism, the ideological engine of terror organizations like the Daesh terrorist group and Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front, which are wreaking havoc in Syria and Iraq.

Since last March, Riyadh, backed by a number of its allies, is also engaged in a military campaign which has claimed over 10,000 civilians in neighboring Yemen.

The Bahraini regime has also enjoyed Saudi support in its heavy-handed crackdown against opposition and political dissent.

This is while Saudi Arabia has come under fire for a growing link with Tel Aviv, which has come to light in recent months.

Press Digest

New Development

KHORASAN: The ongoing airstrikes in Syria as well as failed coup attempt, suicide bombings and car bombs deep inside the Turkish territory means the Turks can no longer refuse to make a clear "commitment" and join the real "anti-ISIL" alliance. They have to – even though like their American and Arab partners they are deeply opposed to the Syrian government and logic would have it that they are supporting ISIL.

Zionist Nukes

QODS: The Zionist regime's covert nuclear activities continue to progress, while the West refuses to talk about it. This is while it would be in the interest of the international community to begin negotiations with Israel to address the multitude of issues requiring eventual resolution. Israel continues the policy of ambiguity over its advanced nuclear weapons program. It has never expressed a willingness to start negotiations and/or to address comprehensive and verifiable denuclearization of the Middle East.

No Immunity

RESALAT: It is true that Saudi propaganda apparatus is efficient and effective. But it is also true that things are not as hopeless as they used to be in Yemen. The regime changers have failed to fail Yemen and the nation has no intention to give up hope just yet. The ceasefire has come and gone and the fight is on for a multi-polar world order. It is a crucial battle, because if the regime changers win, their campaign of destruction will spread everywhere and no one will be immune.

Drone War

ASIA: The international community has been criticizing for years the U.S. drone war. They have been issuing objections over the legality of the program and the number of innocent people who have been killed, maimed or left traumatized by these bombings. Washington might claim otherwise, that its drone war has had a stellar record of accuracy. But watching the news coverage of so many tragic deaths in the war-torn countries, the impression is totally different. In fact, killing innocent people has been a central part of the drone program from the beginning.

'Iran to Shut Hormuz If U.S. Makes a Mistake'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- An Iranian general has said the country will close the strategic Straits of Hormuz if the United States "makes a small mistake," echoing a warning two months ago by the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

"If the enemy makes a small mistake, we will shut the Strait of

Hormuz, kill their sedition in the bud and endanger the arrogant powers' interests," said Brig. Gen. Ali Shadmani, deputy chief of staff of the Iranian army.

His remarks were similar to those made by IRGC deputy commander Brig. Gen. Hussein Salami, who said in May, "If the Americans and their regional allies want to pass through the Strait of Hormuz and threaten us, we will not allow any entry."

Salami also warned that "Americans should learn from recent historical truths," an apparent reference to the seizure of two U.S. Navy patrol boats in January.

The U.S. Navy reported that in 2015, there were close to 300 encounters or "interactions" between American and Iranian naval vessels in the Persian Gulf.

Lt. Forrest Griggs, the operations officer of the USS New Orleans, said that risks arise from the unpredictable behavior and uncertain intent of the Iranian vessels. "It's very common for them to come up to within 300, 500 yards of us, and then they'll turn, or parallel us and stop," he said.