Iran... (Continued From Page One)

(communa 110m 1 mgc

the country since June 2014.

"When Iran helped and Tikrit was liberated, the city was left to its residents, and there were no ethnically-charged aspects (to the Islamic Republic's support)," the ambassador said.

He was referring to the March 2015 liberation of Tikrit — the birthplace of Iraq's former dictator Saddam Hussein and a hotbed of Daesh activity prior to the liberation.

"Iran's presence in Iraq has entirely been based on the Iraqi

"Iran's presence in Iraq has entirely been based on the Iraqi government's demand and is of an advisory nature," Mousavi said

He said Iraq and Iran have "strategic relations."

"The countries form each other's strategic depths and are both after stability and calm in the region," he said, adding, "Should Iraq fall, so will every country in the region, and there will be chaos in all those countries."

Mousavi further censured foreign intervention in Iraq in the name of fighting terrorism. "Leave us. You cannot be our leaders. The era of colonialism has ended and countries want to take their respective state affairs into their own hands."

In his interview, the Iraqi ambassador to Iran also censured Western support for the terrorist anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), some of whose members are based at a former U.S. camp in Iraq.

"When the Iraqi people rose up against Saddam's regime, they (the MKO members) helped him annihilate these people and they killed hundreds of thousands of people under the pretext that they had rioted against the establishment."

The MKO widely supported Saddam in his brutal crackdown on opponents. The terror group also sided with Saddam during his 1980-1988 war on Iran. Iraqi leaders have long asked MKO remnants to leave the Arab country but a complete eviction of the terrorists has been hampered by US and European support for the group.

Zionists ...

(Continued From Page One)

advanced military equipment from the foreign-backed militants inside Syria.

Reports say Tel Aviv has set up field hospitals in the Zionistoccupied side of Syria's Golan Heights for the treatment of injured militants

In December 2015, Daily Mail said the occupying regime of Israel had saved the lives over 2,000 Takfiri militants since

The Zionist regime seized the Golan Heights from Syria after the 1967 Six-Day War and later occupied it in a move that has never been recognized by the international community.

Putin...

(Continued From Page One)

and formally applied to become part of Russia following a referendum a day earlier.

Moscow defends Crimea's reunification with Russia as legitimate, saying more than 90% of the people in the Black Sea peninsula voted in favor of rejoining the country in the 2014 vote.

After Crimea's reunification with Russia, violence intensified in eastern Ukraine in April 2014, when Kiev deployed troops to the eastern regions of Lugansk and Donetsk to suppress pro-Russians.

Two ceasefire deals have been signed between Kiev and pro-Russians, but the shaky agreements have failed to contain the deadly violence which has reportedly killed over 9,000 people.

The Ukraine crisis and Crimea's reunion with Russia have plunged Kremlin's relations with the West to their lowest point since the Cold War.

Since then, the U.S. and some other Western countries have imposed several rounds of sanctions against Russia over its alleged role in the crisis which the Kremlin denies.

Advertising Dept.

Ext. 2336 on al

33110251-9

Turkish Forces 'Foil PKK Raid, Kill Scores of Militants'

ANKARA (Press TV) — Turkish forces say they have killed 35 militants with a separatist Kurdish militant group who attempted to storm a military base in southeastern Turkey.

The fatalities were reportedly caused on Saturday following an attempt by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants to overrun the outpost in the Hakkari Province from three directions.

Most of them were killed in Turkish airstrikes after warplanes spotted the surging attackers.

A day earlier, the military had engaged PKK militants in the province's Cukurca district. The fighting killed eight soldiers and wounded 25 others.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since 1984, when the PKK, listed as a terrorist group by many countries, took up arms in pursuit of establishing an independent state in southeastern Turkey.

A ceasefire between the PKK and the Turkish government collapsed in July 2015 and attacks on Turkish security forces have soared since. Thousands of militants and hundreds of civilians and soldiers have been killed since then.

Ankara has come under the spotlight for the civilian fatalities reportedly caused during the conflict.

The Turkish armed forces are,

meanwhile, hot from undergoing an overhaul in the aftermath of a failed July 15 military coup, led by one of its factions, during which tanks, helicopters, and soldiers clashed with police and people on the streets of



Turkish soldiers are seen in a district in southeastern Turkey.

the capital, Ankara, and Istanbul. percent of all generated being dismissed.

percent of all generals and admirals being dismissed.

Zionist Regime Hails Warming Ties With Egypt

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's PM Benjamin Netanyahu has hailed warming ties with Egypt and its president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi who ousted the Arab country's first democratically-elected president, Mohamed Morsi, in 2004.

Netanyahu made the remarks during an event at the Egyptian ambassador's residence in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

"I want to thank President el-Sisi for his leadership and for his efforts to advance peace between Israel and the Palestinians and in the broader Middle East," he said.

Netanyahu also hailed the Egypt-Israel peace treaty of 1979 — the first between an Arab state and the Zionist regime at the time — calling it an "anchor of stability and security in our region."

Relations between Egypt and the occupying regime have been growing since Sisi took

power in the Arab country in 2014, months after he spearheaded a coup that overthrew Morsi.

Morsi had been elected president after a 2011 revolution that toppled long-time dictator Hosni Mubarak, whose regime had had relations with Israel ever since the 1979 peace deal.

Under Morsi, ties with the Israeli regime worsened. He recalled Cairo's previous ambassador to Israel in November 2012.

Sisi, however, resent an ambassador to Tel Aviv in January. The Israeli regime also opened its embassy in Cairo in September 2015 after a four-year closure.

Earlier in the month, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry traveled to Israel and met with Netanyahu.

In his Thursday remarks, Netanyahu said, "We welcome the effort to incorporate other Arab states in this larger effort of a broader

peace between all the people of the Middle East."

Most Arab governments have no diplomatic relations with Israel. Even so, reports have indicated that several of them, including Saudi Arabia, have had secret relations with Tel Aviv.

Back in May, Israeli newspaper Arutz Sheva reported that Saudi Arabia and its allies, namely Jordan and Egypt — the only two Arab states with open ties with the occupying regime — had been sending messages to Israel through various emissaries, including former British PM Tony Blair.

They had asked Tel Aviv to resume negotiations under a Saudi proposal to have ties between Arab countries and the Israeli regime restored.

The proposal was unveiled in 2002, offering normalized ties with Israel by 22 Arab countries

Zionist Troops Shoot 6 Palestinians in West Bank, Gaza Strip



Palestinian protesters carry an injured teenager during clashes with Zionist troops in the village of Kafr Qaddum, near Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have reportedly shot and wounded six Palestinians, including a woman, near the border in the blockaded Gaza Strip as well as the occupied West Bank.

Bank.
Palestinian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli forces raided al-Arroub refugee camp, situated 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) south of Bethlehem, early on Saturday,

prompting clashes with the residents of the camp, the Palestinian Information Center reported.

Zionist troopers fired tear gas canisters and rubber-coated steel bullets to disperse the crowd. A young Palestinian man was shot and injured during the mayhem.

Meanwhile, Gaza's Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said two Palestinian youths were injured when Israeli military forces clashed with a group of Palestinian protesters east of Gaza City on Friday.

Shortly afterwards, Zionist troops shot and injured a 37-year-old woman and a man in his early 20s during clashes east of Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

The woman was hit in the shoulder, while the man sustained gunshot wounds to the foot.

Another Palestinian youth was injured when Israeli military forces clashed with Palestinian protesters east of al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza Strip.

The occupied territories have witnessed a fresh bout of tensions ever since Zionist troops introduced restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem al-Quds in August 2015.

Palestinians say Tel Aviv seeks to change the status quo of the site, which is Islam's third holiest site after Masjid al-Haram in Mecca and Masjid al-Nabawi in Medina in Saudi Arabia. It is also highly respected by Jews and Christians.

More than 220 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces since the beginning of last October.

Houthi Leader:

U.S. Engineering, S. Arabia Executing Plots Against Yemen

SANAA (FNA) – Leader of Yemen's Houthi Movement Seyed Abdelmalik al-Houthi blasted the US and Saudi Arabia for planning and implementing plots against the regional states, specially Yemen. "The US is engineering

"The U.S. is engineering events in our country and it is directly and indirectly present in the war against Yemen and is supporting

Saudi Arabia in this war," Houthi said.

Saudi Arabia is the executor of the U.S. -Israeli plots and the U.S. and Saudi regime should be blamed for attacks and shedding bloods of thousands of innocent people killed in Yemen, he

added.

His remarks came after

Ansarullah popular forces,

in a video, disclosed that an American mercenary fighting alongside the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, has been killed in clashes with the revolutionaries.

Ansarullah's video dis-

played the U.S. passport, driving license, and birth certificate of Tyler Nathaniel Caldwell.

Caldwell is a U.S. citizen to

from the state of Florida.

Yemen has been under military strikes by Saudi Arabia since March 26, 2015. The Saudi war was launched in a bid to restore power to fugitive President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

Thousands of Yemeni civilians have been killed in the Saudi-led airstrikes and attacks so far.