

Syrian Democratic Forces on Verge of Full Liberation of Manbij

DAMASCUS (FNA) – Latest developments in the town of Manbij indicate that the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), mainly comprised of Kurdish fighters, are about to push ISIL back from its positions and capture the remaining districts of Manbij in coming hours, military sources said Saturday.

“The SDF fighters are about to prevail over ISIL’s defense lines in Central Manbij after winning back a key neighborhood this morning,” informed sources said.

When you feel afraid or nervous to do a thing then do it because the real harm which you may thus receive is less poignant than its expectation and fear.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hezbollah Leader:

Saudis Normalizing Ties With Zionist Regime Free of Charge



Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah delivers a televised speech on July 29, 2016.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah has censured Saudi Arabia for a recent visit to Zionist regime by a delegation headed by a former military general.

Nasrallah said on Friday that the

Riyadh regime is normalizing its ties with Israel “free of charge” and “without any benefits for Palestinians.”

“Saudi Arabia is setting a dangerous example for other nations in establishing ties with Israel,” he

added.

The Hezbollah secretary general went on to say that any Saudi-Israeli relations will be followed by the Arab kingdom’s recognition of the Israeli regime.

Anwar Eshki, the former Saudi military general, and other Saudis made the visit last week during which they met a senior Israeli foreign ministry official and a number of Knesset members.

Eshki, who currently heads the Saudi Institute for Strategic Studies, met Israel’s foreign ministry director general, Dore Gold and Yoav Mordechai, who coordinates the Israeli regime’s activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Saudi Arabia and Israel have no official relations and the kingdom prohibits its citizens from traveling to Israel. However, there has been no dearth of news about a rise in engagement between the two sides under the new Saudi rulers.

The Hezbollah leader also expressed regret that the issue of Palestine “has become a trivial matter among some Arab nations in recent years.”

Nasrallah was speaking during a ceremony to commemorate Ismail Ahmad Zahri, a commander of the resistance movement who passed away last week due to an illness.

He said Zahri represented the first generation of fighters who joined the resistance movement.

“Zahri was one of the commanders who contributed greatly to Lebanon’s victory against Israel in the war of 2006,” Nasrallah said, adding that he “never neglected his duties despite suffering from illness.”

Nasrallah said that the resistance movement is “certain about victory with such devoted commanders as Zahri.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Hezbollah lead.

Syria Blasts Massacre of Civilians in U.S.-Led Coalition Airstrikes

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syria lashed out at the U.S.-led coalition for killing 45 civilians and injuring 50 others in airstrikes near the city of Manbij in Aleppo on Thursday, calling on the UN to take rapid action to stop the massacre.

“In two letters addressed to head of the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General, the [foreign] ministry called for stopping attacks and atrocities committed against civilians, calling for bringing the perpetrators to justice,” the state news agency SANA reported.

“The letters went on to say that any counterterrorism efforts in Syria are doomed unless done in cooperation with the Syrian government in accordance with international law and the UN Charter,” it added.

On Thursday night, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) acknowledged that the airstrikes “may have resulted in civilian casualties,” but did not name a figure, pending a likely future investigation.

The Thursday massacre was carried out after at least 15 people were killed and injured in U.S.-led airstrikes against al-Nawajah village east of Manbij on July 23, a few days after another deadly U.S.-led raid left 120 civilians dead near Manbij.

On July 22, the military coalition also killed at least 20 civilians in Manbij and claimed the lives of at least 30 more, including 11 children, in the same

city on June 9, in aerial attacks purportedly conducted against positions of the ISIL in the area.

Terrorists Surrender in Aleppo

A number of terrorists operating in the eastern areas of the Syrian city of Aleppo have laid down their weapons and surrendered themselves to government troops, who are making more gains in the embattled Province.

The capitulation took place in Aleppo’s Salaheddine neighborhood on Saturday, Syria’s official SANA news agency reported.

The report further noted that tens of families went out through the corridors set up by army forces for the safe departure of the civilians trapped by terrorist groups in Aleppo’s eastern districts.

The families were sent by the Syrian army to makeshift centers upon their arrival to the Salaheddine neighborhood, the report added.

Earlier this week, the Syrian army sent text messages to residents and terrorists in eastern Aleppo, saying it will grant safe passage to people wishing to leave the area.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also vowed amnesty for those who turn in their weapons, stressing that the policy has been exercised by Damascus since the beginning of the crisis in the Middle Eastern country.

Blast Hits Afghanistan’s Herat

KABUL (Dispatches) – An explosion has rocked Afghanistan’s western city of Herat, leaving one civilian dead and five others, including a police force member, wounded.

Herat police said the blast took place close to a compound belonging to the Afghan army on Herat’s Minarets Road on Saturday morning. Officials said the explosives were placed in a hand cart.

The Public Health Directorate in Herat said two of those injured in the explosion were in critical condition.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it bears the hallmark of those carried out by members of the Taliban terrorist group.

Herat is among the relatively calm provinces in Afghanistan, but terrorists are active in the region’s several remote districts.

Afghanistan faces a security challenge years after the United States and its allies invaded the country in 2001 as part of Washington’s so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but many areas in the country are still beset with insecurity.

There are currently some 10,000 foreign forces in Afghanistan despite the end of the U.S.-led combat mission on December 31, 2014. The forces, mainly from the U.S., are there for what Washington calls a support mission. NATO says the forces focus mainly on counterterrorism operations and training Afghan soldiers and policemen.

On July 23, twin explosions tore through a demonstration by members of Afghanistan’s mainly Shia Hazara minority in the capital, Kabul, killing at least 80 people and wounding more than 230 others.



Afghan security personnel arrive after a deadly bomb attack in the capital, Kabul.

The deadly incident was claimed by the Takfiri ISIL terrorist group.

The United Nations has recorded

1,601 civilian deaths and another 3,565 injuries in the country in the first six months of 2016.

Amnesty Censures Turkey Crackdown on Media



Supporters of Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan gather during a demonstration against the failed coup of July 15 at Kizilay Square in Ankara.

ANKARA (Press TV) – Amnesty International has slammed as “disturbing” Turkey’s ongoing crackdown on media freedom in the wake of the failed coup of July 15.

The Britain-based human rights group said in a report that Turkish authorities have issued arrest warrants for 89 journalists, adding that more than 40 have already been arrested while

several others are in hiding.

The report said 131 media outlets have been shut down since a second emergency decree passed on July 27.

Turkey issued the first state of emergency decree on July 23, in which the pre-charge detention period has been extended to 30 days.

“Rounding up journalists and shutting down media houses is the latest assault on a media already weakened by years of government repression. The passing of this second emergency decree leaves little room for doubt that the authorities are intent on silencing criticism without regard to international law,” said Fotis Filippou, Amnesty International’s deputy Europe director.

“Even under a state of emergency, restrictions must be necessary, proportionate and for a legitimate purpose. The provisions of the two emergency de-

crees passed this week fail all three of these tests and fly in the face of the government’s claim that they are upholding rights and the rule of law.”

Amnesty had earlier revealed “credible evidence” that inmates detained following the coup attempt have been subjected to torture and abuse.

The rights organization also urged Ankara to hold accountable those responsible for human rights abuses during the abortive coup.

“The authorities must bring to justice those responsible for unlawful killings and other human rights abuses during the coup attempt. But this must be done in a manner that respects the right to fair trial, the prohibition of torture and other human rights. The intensified crackdown on freedom of the press does not serve this purpose and is unlawful,” Filippou stated.

Bahrain Regime Forces Arrest Senior Shia Cleric

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahraini regime forces have arrested yet another senior Shia Muslim cleric as the ruling Al Khalifah regime continues a heavy-handed crackdown on the Shia community in Bahrain.

Bahraini forces arrested Seyyed Majid al-Mashaal, the secretary of Muslim Scholars Council, after raiding his home on Saturday morning.

On January 29, 2014, a Bahraini court decided to dissolve the council, which includes a number of prominent Bahraini Shia scholars, and ordered the liquidation of its assets.

Bahrain’s Islamic Scholars Council was founded in 2004 under the leadership of prominent Bahraini Shia religious scholar Sheikh Issa Qassim.

Sheikh Qassim himself has been stripped of his citizenship and is being tried at a court over trumped-up charges.

Earlier on July 24, Bahraini forces arrested two Shia clergymen, identified as Sayed Yassin al-Mo-

sawi and Sheikh Jassim al-Kayyat, over their participation in a sit-in outside the residence of Sheikh Qassim to denounce the regime’s decision to revoke his citizenship.

Since February 14, 2011, thousands of anti-regime protesters have held numerous demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis, calling on the Al Khalifah rulers to relinquish power.

In March that year, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — themselves repressive Arab regimes — were deployed to the country to assist Manama in its crackdown on protests.

Bahrain has already sentenced Sheikh Ali Salman, another revered opposition cleric, to nine years in prison on charges of seeking regime change and collaborating with foreign powers, which he has denied.

Sheikh Salman was the secretary general of the al-Wafaq National Islamic Society, which was Bahrain’s main opposition bloc before being dissolved by the regime earlier this month.