

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – Turkey has gone "too far" with emergency measures adopted after an abortive mid-July coup, violating international law, Europe's leading human rights organization says.

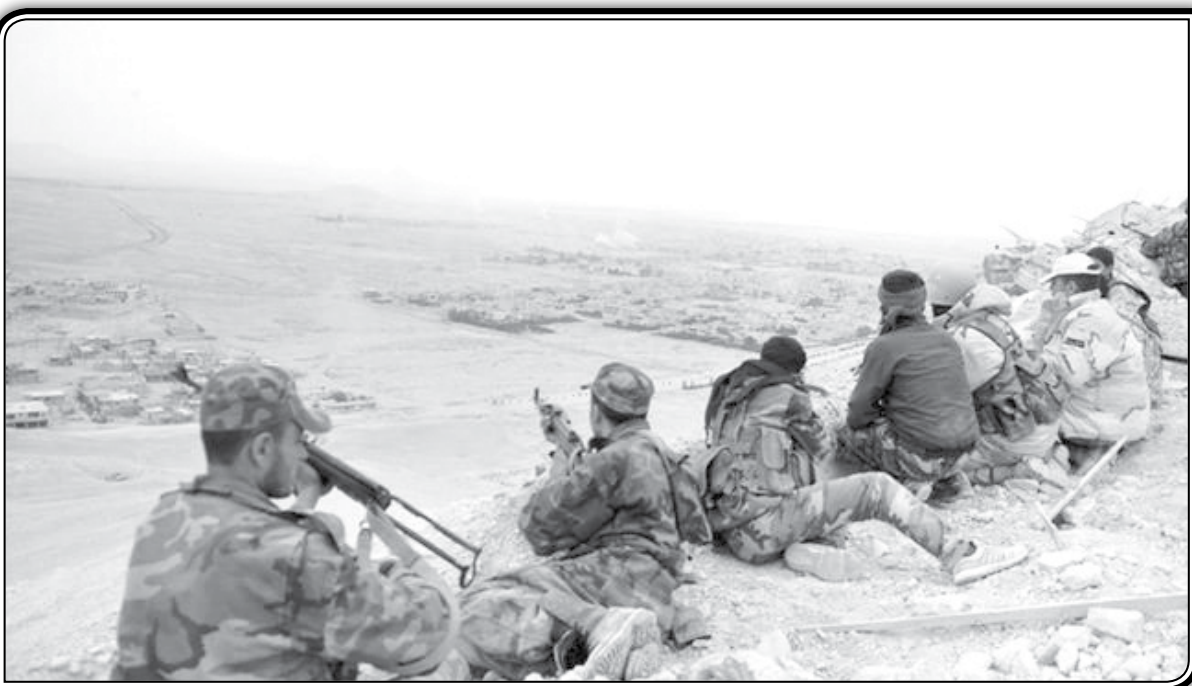
In an opinion adopted by its experts, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe said the Turkish government had "good reasons" to declare the state of emergency in reaction to a "dangerous armed conspiracy," but noting that the measures it implemented also violated the country's constitution and international law.

To lose or to waste an opportunity will result in grief and sorrow.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Syria Sends Reinforcements to Palmyra to Counter Daesh

Turkish Warplanes Bomb Northern Iraq, Kill 19



Syrian soldiers taking up positions during fighting with Daesh terrorists in Palmyra, Syria.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian army says reinforcements have been deployed to the ancient city of Palmyra in the west-central Homs Province to prevent the Daesh terrorists from further advancing toward the city.

The army said in a statement that clashes are underway between government forces and the terrorists, who have advanced to the city's outskirts.

The statement said that the terrorists had seized areas to the northwest and southeast of the historic city.

According to the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the terrorist group launched the recent offensive late on Thursday, when it seized grain silos northeast

of Palmyra, and has since taken at least partial control of oil and gas fields to the city's northwest.

The Syrian army, backed by popular forces and a wave of Russian airstrikes, retook the ancient city from Daesh on March 27 following weeks of military operations.

Syrian army and allied forces are also busy driving the Takfiri terrorists from the strategic northwestern city of Aleppo. Government forces liberated 52 blocks in the eastern parts of the city and are now in control of 93 percent of the whole city, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

The recent army gains come despite the persistent financial

and military support that many foreign states have been providing to the terrorists since 2011 to bring about the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad.

Meanwhile, foreign-backed terrorists on Saturday carried out new rocket attacks on government-held areas in Aleppo, leaving ten civilians dead and injuring 25 others.

In an earlier assault, which targeted several districts, including Bustan al-Zahra, Seif al-Dawla, and Old Aleppo, nearly a dozen civilians had lost their lives and some 128 others had been injured.

Thousands of Syrian civilians are leaving terrorist-controlled areas in the flashpoint city through

humanitarian corridors opened by Syrian government forces.

U.S. Involvement

The United States announced plans to send 200 more troops to Syria to allegedly join operations aimed at retaking the Syrian city of Raqqah from the Daesh terrorist group.

"I can tell you today that the United States will deploy approximately 200 additional U.S. forces in Syria," U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told a security conference in the Bahraini capital, Manama.

They will add to 300 American special forces already operating in Syria which has been fighting foreign-backed terrorism for years.

Carter said troops were only about 25 kilometers away from Raqqah, adding they were helping SDF terrorists who are mainly comprised of Kurdish fighters.

The announcement came a day after Turkey said it was dispatching 300 special troops to Syria to reinforce its U.S.-backed incursion of the Arab country.

The Turkish army said its troops and terrorists had seized control of a highway between the key regional towns of al-Bab and Manbij on Friday.

Damascus has already strongly criticized the United States and Turkey for deploying troops to the Syrian soil, saying it amounts to an act of aggression.

Ankara (Press TV) – Turkish fighter jets have bombarded an area in northern Iraq, killing at least 19 people.

The warplanes took off from an air base in Diyarbakir and targeted the northern Iraqi region of Gara on Saturday, military sources said.

They said the bombing came in response to threats that the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants were preparing an attack on military units at the border.

Turkey frequently launches air attacks in the mountainous regions of northern Iraq without coordination with the Baghdad government.

Ankara has also deployed troops into Iraq, sparking a bitter rift with Baghdad which views it as a violation of its sovereignty.

They are based in a town near the Iraqi city of Mosul which is currently the focus of a massive operation to recapture it from Daesh terrorists.

Turkey says its troops are there to fight Daesh and train Kurdish forces. In October, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Turkey would keep troops in Iraq despite Baghdad's opposition.

Turkey's parliament earlier voted to extend the deployment of an estimated 2,000 troops across northern Iraq by a year to

combat "terrorist organizations" a wording broad enough to refer to Kurdish militants as well as Daesh.

Iraq condemned the vote, and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi warned Turkey risked triggering a regional war. Both countries have summoned each other's ambassadors in a mounting diplomatic standoff.

Turkey shares a 1,200km border with Syria and Iraq. Its army launched an incursion into Syria in August allegedly to push back Daesh and prevent the U.S.-backed Kurdish YPG militia from seizing ground.

Ankara regards YPG an offshoot of the PKK. The Turkish military has also been pounding the group's alleged positions in Iraq and Syria in breach of the Arab countries' sovereignty.

Turkey and the PKK had ceased long-running armed hostilities since 2013 until a deadly July 2015 bombing in Suruc, which the Turkish government blamed on the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group.

After the bombing, the PKK militants, who accuse Ankara of supporting Daesh, engaged in a series of reprisal attacks against Turkish police and security forces, prompting Turkey's military operations in turn.

Iraq Sends Reinforcements to East of Mosul



Iraqi army soldiers patrol in the newly-liberated Shaimaa neighborhood of the northern city of Mosul, December 4, 2016.

BAGHDAD (Press TV) – A senior Iraqi commander says a number of new contingents have been sent to the east of the northern city of Mosul to bolster the military forces already deployed there.

Major General Najim al-Jabouri, the head of the Operations Command in Nineveh Province, of which Mosul is the capital, made the announcement on Saturday. The reinforcements comprise both Iraqi army units and officers with the country's federal police, he said.

The operation to retake Mosul began on October 17. The terrorist group of Daesh seized the city in 2014, when it overran territory in a large-scale offensive in the country and named Mosul its so-called headquarters.

Daesh has been setting off hundreds of car bombs, unleashing mortar barrages, deploying snipers, and using locals as human shields to slow the advance of the security forces trying to liberate the city. The troops have made

significant gains both on the southern and eastern fronts of Mosul but were forced back last week within hours of seizing the al-Salam hospital in the east, which Daesh had been using as a base. More than 20 servicemen died in a Daesh attack there.

Reports said that the troops based on the eastern flank of Mosul had nevertheless recaptured Tamim District and destroyed three sites used by the group to make car bombs and as many arms depots.

So far during their battle against the Daesh terrorists, the Iraqi military and its allies have forced them out of Ramadi, the capital of the western Anbar Province, Fallujah, another city in the province, and Tikrit in the north-central Salahuddin Province.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has said Mosul would be back under government control by yearend. But the government operations for the liberation of the city have slowed down amid the presence of civilians there.

Zionist Regime Admits Tweeting Fake Lebanon Map

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's army has acknowledged that a "declassified map" it had released earlier this week to show the alleged military positions of resistance movement Hezbollah in Lebanon was fake.

On December 6, the occupying regime's military posted on its Twitter account a map titled "Declassified map of Hezbollah's military infrastructure in Lebanon" with countless spots that alleged to show the positions of Hezbollah rocket launchers, anti-aircraft and infantry, and tunnels in 85 villages in south Lebanon. Accompanying text read, "This is a war crime."

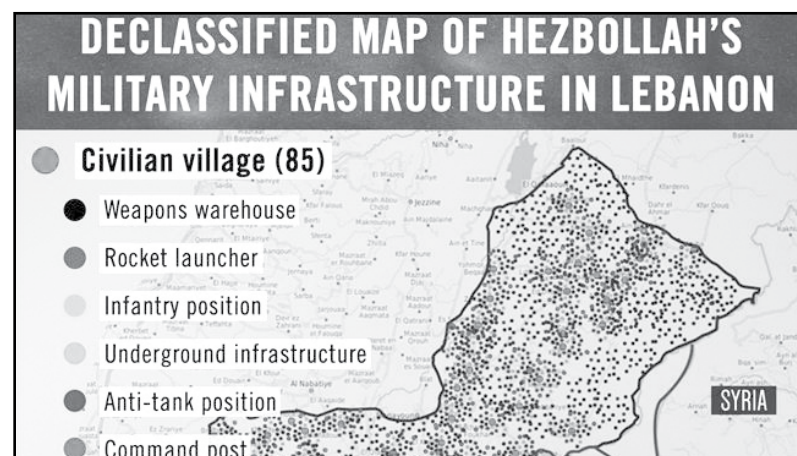
Online users later drew attention to how the map had been fabricated by pointing to its history, which showed it had been created by a Zionist military spokesman's account using Google Maps. The online sleuthing also revealed that the dots appearing on the map displayed a repetitive pattern. The regime's military admitted

that the map, which Israeli media said had been circulated among foreign diplomats, was inaccurate. It claimed the picture was just a "visual illustration."

It is not the first time the Zionist regime has used social media as propaganda tools against the Lebanese resistance movement. In 2013, a Zionist military spokesman published a fake Facebook page it said belonged to Hezbollah. The Israeli military has also created and regularly updates a fake Hezbollah website.

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement, which has already fought off two wars against the regime, has been successfully protecting Lebanese territory against the spillover of terrorism from neighboring Syria, where the Zionist military is known to be abetting anti-Damascus terrorists.

Hezbollah has also deployed fighters to Syrian territory near the Lebanese border to help the national army of Syria fight



The image shows a fake map of Lebanon that the Zionist regime's military tweeted earlier to show what it said were military positions held by Hezbollah.

extremist terrorists.

Last month, Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the group's fighters would remain in neighboring Syria until they achieve final victory over foreign-sponsored terrorists and purge the crisis-hit Arab country of extremists.

Since March 2011, Syria has been gripped by terrorism it

blames on some Western states and their regional allies.

The terrorists operating in Syria have suffered major setbacks over the past few months as the Syrian army, backed by allied fighters, has managed to liberate many areas.

The regime has, meanwhile, set up field hospitals to treat wounded terrorists from Syria.