

Saudi Forces Shoot Shia Youth to Death in Qatif

RIYADH (Press TV) – Saudi Arabian troops have fatally shot a youth during operations carried out in the kingdom's Shia-populated Qatif region in Eastern Province. Abdullah al-Qallaf was killed while driving in his car in the town of al-Awamiyah. According to local reports, Qallaf was mistakenly shot by Saudi troops who were targeting a political activist. Following the incident Saudi forces removed Qallaf's body to an undisclosed location.

The Shia-populated Eastern Province has been the scene of peaceful demonstrations since February 2011.

Take warning! He has not exposed so many of your sinful activities that it appears as if He has forgiven you (it may be that He has given you time to repent).

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UN:

Over 75 Percent of Yemenis in Need of Aid



A Yemeni man inspects the damage made by a Saudi airstrike on a bridge between the area of Abbas and Harad in the northern province of Hajjah, on December 25, 2017.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The United Nations says the number of the Yemenis who are dependent on assistance has risen to 22.2 million, as the risk of famine increases three years into a Saudi Arabian-led war on impoverished Yemen.

The UN humanitarian affairs office, the OCHA, said on Tuesday that 8.4 million people — out of Yemen's population of 29 million — were now at risk of famine, up

from 6.8 million in 2017.

According to the OCHA, a total of 22.2 million people, or 76 percent of Yemen's population, are dependent on some form of aid, an increase of 1.5 million people over the past six months.

The humanitarian crisis caused by the Saudi Arabian-led war on Yemen has been worsened by a crippling blockade enforced by the invading countries.

The Saudi-led war has also triggered a deadly cholera epidemic across Yemen.

According to the World Health Organization's latest count, the cholera outbreak has killed 2,167 people since the end of April and is suspected to have infected 841,906.

In the latest attack, Saudi warplanes have launched a series of attacks on Yemen's western province of Hudaydah, killing at least

six people.

Late on Monday, Saudi fighter planes attacked a farm in the province's al-Jerahi directorate killing two farmers and injuring several more.

Four more civilians were killed when Saudi jets launched air raids on agricultural land in the province's al-Khokha region.

Earlier in the day, eight civilians were killed and five others were wounded when Saudi military aircraft struck targeted their vehicle as it was travelling along a road in the Ahem area of Yemen's north-western province of Hajjah.

On Sunday, a UN panel compiled a detailed report of civilian casualties caused by the Saudi military and its allies during their war against Yemen, saying the Riyadh-led coalition has used precision-guided munitions in its raids on civilian targets.

The report, which has been devised for the UN Security Council, has not been made public, but Al Jazeera said it was allowed to view a copy.

Over 13,600 people have been killed since the onset of Saudi Arabia's military campaign against Yemen in 2015. Much of the Arabian Peninsula country's infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and factories, has been reduced to rubble due to the war.

Lebanese President Vows to Maintain Security, Stability

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on Tuesday that Lebanon will maintain national security and political stability.

Aoun made the comments before diplomats and other foreign envoys at an annual event at Baabda Palace.

He said the parliamentary elections will be held on May 6 as scheduled, in response to concerns that the first parliamentary elections since 2009 could be delayed again.

Aoun expressed gratitude for the countries supporting Lebanon, saying his country is determined to move toward a better future.

"The Lebanese government, which includes the main political parties, contributed to ensuring and securing stability," Aoun said.

The president also highlighted Lebanon's continued security, de-

spite difficulties in preserving stability in the turbulent region.

"We managed to achieve security through the coordination between different security agencies," Aoun said.

The remarks came after reports emerged indicating that Saudi Arabia is planning to seize the assets of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri in the kingdom as part of Riyadh's so-called anti-corruption campaign apparently targeting the crown prince's critics and opponents.

The New Arab, citing an unnamed source close to Saudi authorities, reported that Riyadh is moving to acquire assets still owned by Hariri in the now defunct construction company, Saudi Oger, in return for cancelling outstanding debts.

"The restructuring of Saudi com-

panies whose owners are involved in corruption cases are steaming ahead, starting with the Binladin group and now moving towards Saudi Oger," the source said.

"Although Saudi Oger does not have many assets left after liquidating its businesses, the authorities are determined to reclaim all funds and assets that were sold off," added the source.

The source said that the recent arrest of Jordanian-Saudi businessman Sabih al-Masri was also linked to the case of Saudi Oger and Hariri.

The asset seizure comes after Saudi rulers failed to coerce Hariri into stepping down as Lebanon's prime minister over his reluctance to confront the Hezbollah resistance movement.

Last November, Hariri declared

his surprise resignation from a location in Riyadh, fueling strong beliefs at home and abroad that he had been forced to quit by the Riyadh regime in an attempt to pressure Hezbollah.

A New York Times report later revealed that Hariri, upon arrival in Riyadh, had found himself manhandled by Saudi forces and forced to resign his position.

Hariri, however, managed to get out of the kingdom amid international pressure on Riyadh. He rescinded his resignation after returning home.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal earlier this month, the Lebanese premier hailed Hezbollah, a party to his government, for doing its part to deescalate the tensions.

Over Qatar Warplanes

UAE to File Complain With UN Body

DUBAI (Reuters) – The United Arab Emirates will lodge a complaint against Qatar at the United Nations' aviation agency after Qatari war planes allegedly intercepted UAE civilian aircraft, a UAE official said.

The UAE said that Qatari air force jets had intercepted two UAE civilian aircraft on routine commercial flights to Bahrain. Qatar has said the claims are "completely untrue".

The UAE will accuse Qatar of violating the Chicago Convention, which governs the use of airspace, in a complaint to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), UAE General Civil Aviation Authority Director-General Saif Mohammed al-Suwaidi told Reuters.

Suwaidi said two Qatari war planes twice flew dan-

gerously close to the UAE airliners as they descended towards Bahrain International Airport in separate incidents on Monday, and could be seen by the pilots and passengers.

"It's a very obvious violation," he said by phone.

The UAE, along with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt, has imposed travel, diplomatic and trade sanctions on Qatar since last June, accusing it of supporting terrorism.

Qatar denies the charge and has accused the four countries of trying to make it conform to their foreign policy positions.

Suwaidi said the UAE aircraft had been intercepted in air space managed by Bahrain. He declined to say whether their flight paths had taken them across Qa-

tar, the most common route from the UAE to Bahrain.

The UAE has banned Qatari aircraft from using its airspace as part of the restrictions imposed since June. Qatar has not reciprocated.

Suwaidi said that Bahraini radar had determined the fighter jets originated and returned from Doha, and pilots of the UAE commercial planes had identified the aircraft as Mirage war planes, which are used by several Arab air forces, including Qatar's.

Suwaidi declined to say which airlines had been intercepted. Bahrain's state news agency BNA earlier reported that they were Emirates and Etihad flights, though gave a flight number for Etihad flight that does not exist. Emirates and Etihad declined to comment.

Hamas Calls for Effective Implementation of PLO Decisions



Children hold Palestinian flags as they flash victory signs during a sit-in in the Bourj al-Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon, December 6, 2017.

GAZA (Dispatches) – The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said Tuesday the real test of the decisions made by Palestine Liberation Organization is to enforce actual implementation on the ground.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum stressed in a press statement which was sent to Xinhua that "mechanisms should be put in place to implement the decisions of the Central Council."

The PLO Central Council held its 28th session on January 14-15 in Ramallah, under the theme "al-Quds the eternal capital of the State of Palestine."

The Palestinian Central Council has called on Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to suspend recognition of the Zionist regime in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize al-Quds as the Tel Aviv regime's capital.

On Monday, the council voted in favor of ordering the PLO to halt its recognition of the regime until it officially recognizes the state of Palestine, suspends its annexation of east al-Quds and halts

its settlement activities.

It is still unclear if the council's vote, which is a high-ranking part of the PLO, is binding.

The announcement was made after Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said that U.S. President Donald Trump's so-called Middle East peace efforts are the "slap of the century" after his al-Quds move.

Last month, Trump announced that Washington would recognize al-Quds as the capital of the Zionist regime and would relocate the U.S. embassy in the Israeli-occupied territories from Tel Aviv to the occupied city.

The entire al-Quds is currently under the regime's control, while the regime also claims the city's eastern part, which hosts the third holiest Muslim site.

The city has been designated as "occupied" under international law since the 1967 Arab War, which Palestinians want as the capital of their future state.

Trump had vowed during his presidential campaign that he would relocate the U.S. embassy in order to court pro-Israel voters.

Zionist Troops Shoot Dead Young Palestinian

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have killed a young Palestinian man in the head in the occupied West Bank during clashes in protest at U.S. President Donald Trump's controversial recognition of al-Quds as the "capital" of the Zionist regime.

Ahmed Saleem was shot in the head in Jayyus village near the city of Qalqilyah, close to the so-called separation line between Israeli-held territories and the occupied West Bank, said Palestine's health ministry in a statement, as a number of Palestinian outlets said the young man was in his mid-20s.

Saleem was the 17th Palestinian to be killed by Zionist troops since Trump's highly provocative declaration of al-Quds as the regime's capital on December 6, deteriorating the already tense situation in occupied territories. Some 3,000 other Palestinians

have also sustained injuries during protests that have ensued the announcement.

On Thursday, Zionist troops separately shot dead two Palestinian teenage boys in the central part of the besieged Gaza Strip and the West Bank during clashes in anti-Trump demonstrations.

The entire al-Quds is currently under the regime's control, while the regime also claims the city's eastern part, which hosts the third holiest Muslim site. The city has been designated as "occupied" under international law since the 1967 Arab War, which Palestinians want as the capital of their future state.

Al-Quds remains at the core of the Zionist-Palestinian conflict, with Palestinians hoping that the eastern part of the city would eventually serve as the capital of a future independent Palestinian state.