

U.S. Continues to Evacuate Daesh Terrorists Trapped in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The U.S. forces have intensified their heliborne operations to evacuate Daesh commanders who have been trapped in Syria's Hasakah province. Local sources confirmed that the U.S. helicopters conducted heliborne operations in the village of Tuwaimin, 50km northeast of al-Shadadi, in southern Hasakah. The sources said that 4 terrorists, including a Daesh 'security commander', were evacuated from the region in the operations. The area where the operation took place is still occupied by the terrorist group.

One who imagines himself to be all-knowing will surely suffer on account of his ignorance.

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Turkey Denies Reports of Using Chemical Weapons in Syria's Afrin



This photo taken on February 10, 2018, from the Syrian village of Atme in the northwestern province of Idlib shows smoke plumes rising in the village of Dayr Ballut in Afrin region, where Turkish forces and allied militants groups are conducting an offensive against the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

ANKARA (Dispatches) – A Turkish diplomatic source says Turkey has never used chemical weapons in its operations in Syria, and takes the utmost care of civilians, after Syrian Kurdish forces and a monitoring group accused it of carrying out a gas attack in Syria's Afrin region. "These are baseless accusations. Turkey never used chemical weapons. We take utmost care about civilians in Operation Olive Branch," the source said. Syrian Kurdish forces and a

monitoring group said the Turkish military carried out a suspected gas attack that wounded six people in Syria's Afrin region on Friday. The source also described the accusations of wounding six civilians through a suspected gas attack as "black propaganda". Turkey launched an air and ground offensive last month on the Afrin region, opening a new front in the multi-sided Syrian war, to target Kurdish fighters in northern Syria. Reizan Hedu, from the Kurdish

People's Protection Units (YPG), told Russia's RIA Novosti news agency on Saturday, "The Turkish army possesses aircraft, tanks and missiles, and is using weapons banned by international conventions like napalm and shells laced with chlorine." Hedu further noted that Turkish troops actually did not advance in Afrin, but engaged in hit-and-run tactics instead. The remarks came a day after the general director of Afrin Hospital,

Jiwan Mohammad, told Syria's official news agency, SANA, that six people had been admitted to the medical facility with symptoms of "breathing difficulties, coughing, and burning all over their bodies," which he said were indicative of a chemical weapon attack.

He added that the victims came from al-Mazyaneh village on the outskirts of Afrin.

Mohammad noted that four of the victims were stable, while two others were in a critical condition.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also told Reuters that Turkish forces and their terrorist allies in Syria had hit the village on Friday with shells. The Britain-based monitoring group also said medical sources in Afrin reported that six people in the attack suffered breathing difficulties and dilated pupils, indicating a suspected gas attack.

Syrian medical teams are reportedly working to identify the type of toxic gas used in the attack.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly said that Afrin should be cleared of "terrorists," and demanded the deployment of Turkish troops there during a speech back in November 2016.

This is while U.S. officials regard the YPG as the most effective fighting force against the Daesh terrorist group in northern Syria, and have substantially increased their weaponry and technology support to the group.

Regime Forces Attack Demonstrators Across Bahrain



The smoke of tears gas is seen as Bahrainis mark the seventh anniversary of the 2011 popular uprising on February 14, 2018.

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahraini police forces have attacked protesters in several regions across the Persian Gulf kingdom, a few days after large crowds of demonstrators marked the seventh anniversary of their uprising against the ruling Al Khalifah dynasty.

The demonstrators on Friday called for the release of political prisoners, and expressed solidarity with prominent opposition cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim, who is now living under house arrest since Manama revoked his citizenship in June 2016, prompting protests and sit-ins in his home-town of Diraz.

There were no immediate reports of possible casualties or arrests during the crackdown on Friday.

The rallies came two days after Bahraini people marked the seventh anniversary of their popular uprising with massive protests across the country. Police used tear gas against the demonstrators in several areas, injuring several of them in the ensuing clashes.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters

have held numerous demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since the uprising began in the capital Manama in mid-February 2011 and snowballed into a full-fledged movement sweeping the whole Shia-dominated country. They demand that the Al Khalifah dynasty relinquish power and let a just system representing all Bahrainis be established based on political reforms and equality.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries as a result of the Al Khalifah regime's crackdown.

Bahrain has also stripped hundreds of its citizens of their nationality, and has jailed dozens of high-profile activists and religious clerics over the past seven years.

Zionist Troops Injure Scores of Palestinians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – At least 40 Palestinians have been injured in clashes with Zionist troops across the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip on the anniversary of a massacre of Palestinian worshipers by an American-Zionist extremist.

Zionist troops fired tear gas canisters at Palestinians in Ramallah in the West Bank, as well as the cities of al-Khalil and Nablus, respectively in the south and north of the Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said in an e-mailed press statement that 17 Palestinians were injured during those clashes.

Friday marked the anniversary of the day in 1994 when Baruch Goldstein, a member of Kach, a former radical Zionist movement,

killed 29 Palestinians and wounded 125 others who were praying in al-Khalil.

In Gaza, protesters amassed on the territory's border, shouting slogans and waving Palestinian flags.

Ashraf al-Qedra, the spokesman of Gaza Health Ministry, told reporters that 23 Palestinians were shot and wounded during border clashes with Zionist troops.

One of the injured was in critical condition as he had been shot in the head, while most of the others were shot in the upper parts of their bodies, he added. "This shows that the Israeli soldiers aim at killing the Palestinian protesters," said al-Qedra.

Tel Aviv has kept Gaza under siege since 2007.

The regime also claims al-Quds, which is situated in the West Bank,



Palestinian demonstrators carry a wounded person during clashes with Israeli forces near the illegal settlement of Beit El in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on February 16, 2018.

as its "capital." This is while Palestinians want the city's eastern part to serve as the capital of their future state. More violence has

occurred since last December, when U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally recognized al-Quds as the occupying regime's "capital."

Iraq Thwarts Smuggling of Ancient Antiquity, Manuscripts

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The Iraqi Interior Ministry Saturday said that the security forces thwarted the smuggling of an ancient antiquity and cultural manuscripts valued at 13 million U.S. dollars and arrested the suspected smugglers.

Acting on intelligence reports, the security forces raided a house in the city of Kirkuk, some 250km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, and arrested two suspects with ancient manuscripts and an ancient statue of a head, according to a statement by the Interior Ministry's General

Inspector office in Kirkuk.

The office estimated the manuscripts value at about 8 million dollars, whereas the statue is about 5 million dollars, the statement said.

The two suspects confessed, in the interrogation, that they are making their living from smuggling antiquities and that they were about to deliver the antiquities to someone on the border with Turkey, it added.

Up to 15,000 artifacts of Iraqi treasure-trove from the Stone Age

through the Babylonian, Assyrian and Islamic periods were stolen or destroyed by looters across Iraq, including the National Museum in Baghdad, after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, which was toppled by U.S.-led troops in 2003.

Again after the extremist Daesh terrorists took control of large territories in northern and western Iraq in 2014, the museum of Mosul as well as the ruin sites of the ancient cities of Hatra and Nimrod were destroyed and large number of antiquities were smuggled.

New Mass Grave Found in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian Army troops found a new mass grave in the Northeastern province of Raqqah that contains scores of bodies of the civilians and military men believed to have been executed by Daesh terrorists, field sources said on Saturday.

The sources said that the army men continued cleansing operation in al-Rathman region in the Raqqah province and discovered a mass grave with scores of bodies of civilians and military forces that had been executed by the Daesh terrorist group.

The army units had previously found another mass grave in Debsi Fenan region, containing 115 bodies executed

by the Daesh.

A Syrian official said last month that several mass graves with 10,000 bodies, including one with 4,000, were found in Raqqah city.

The Arabic-language al-Watan daily quoted General Director of the Syrian Forensic Medicine Zaher Hajo as reporting that based on intelligence 10,000 bodies were buried in mass graves in Raqqah.

He further told al-Watan that 4,000 bodies were buried in one grave, adding that the discovered graves were located in the regions that were under the control of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces.