

‘Turkey Steps Up Training Terrorists in Syria’

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey has reportedly resumed an extensive campaign aimed at training the so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA) militants in northern Syria, purportedly to fight Kurdish forces and Daesh terrorists. Turkish special forces are training more FSA troops in using mortars, rocket launchers and machine guns, Anadolu news agency reported. “It is no longer the old FSA in the field but a new FSA being born. These FSA members in training will show their difference in possible future operations,” the report quoted an unidentified military official as saying.

If you want to pray to Allah for better means of subsistence, then first give something in charity.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Iraqi Forces Retake Control of Key Districts in Mosul



Iraqi forces deploy in western Mosul’s 17th Tammuz neighborhood as they continue their military offensive to retake the northern city from Daesh terrorists on May 19, 2017.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi government forces have wrested full control over two strategic neighborhoods in the western side of Mosul as they press ahead with operations to drive Daesh terrorists out of the country’s second largest city. Commander of Federal Police Forces Lieutenant General Raed Shaker Jawdat said on Saturday that his forces had fully recaptured 17th July and Eqtesadien neighborhoods of Mosul, and set up barricades and barriers in the

liberated areas, Arabic-language al-Sumaria television network reported. He added that 66 Daesh terrorists had been killed while 13 explosive-laden cars and nine motorcycle bombs had been destroyed during the operations. The high-ranking Iraqi official noted that federal police forces had regained control over 80 areas, killed 172 snipers, and destroyed 373 car bombs as well as 321 motorcycle bombs ever since the military campaign to

liberate western Mosul from the clutches of Daesh extremists began in mid-February. Jawdat highlighted that Iraqi police forces had also helped the evacuation of 40,000 families from conflict zones, returned 10,000 displaced families to their hometowns and distributed foodstuff and basic commodities among some 55,000 families. The development comes as a fresh wave of terror bombings has hit Iraq’s southern city of Basra and the capital of Bagh-

dad, killing at least 35 and injuring nearly 45 others. According to security officials, at least 11 people lost their lives and over 30 others were wounded after two bombers blew up their explosives-laden vehicles on Friday at checkpoints near a military base as well as a highway near the area’s oilfields. Seven of the injured are reportedly in critical condition.

The first blast occurred outside the Ar-Rumeila military base, where eight people were killed, including the head of the local intelligence establishment as well as a number of intelligence forces, according to the sources cited in local reports. Confirming the first bombing, Basra operational commander, Jameel al-Shemri, further announced in a news briefing that a second bomber also blew up his explosives-packed vehicle near the al-Sadra checkpoint on a highway leading to the region’s oilfields. The attacker then detonated his explosive vest after he was surrounded by security force, killing three people. This is while the southern province of Basra, where the bulk of the nation’s oil is produced, remains one of the most stable and secure regions of Iraq, in which bomb attacks are quite rare.

Terrorists Begin Evacuating Town in Syria’s Homs



Terrorists and their families arrive at a checkpoint manned by Syrian government forces ahead of their evacuation from Waer district in the city of Homs, May 20, 2017.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – In line with the final phase of implementing a deal between the Syrian government and groups operating against Damascus, foreign-backed terrorists have begun evacuating a district in Homs province. On Saturday, at least one bus transporting terrorists and their families left Waer, a town now under the control of the Syrian army. About 2,500 more people were expected to leave the district within the coming hours. Thousands of people have left the district in several stages since the deal, which is backed by Russia, came into force in March. According to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, up to 20,000 people will have left the district by the time it is fully implemented. Syrian media reports said many of the terrorists were headed for the northwestern province of Idlib as well as the town of Jarablus along the country’s northern border with Turkey. Some will reportedly stay in Waer and hand over their weapons as the military moves in. The development came after Syria’s Ambassador to the UN Bashar al-Ja’afari announced the end of the latest round of Syrian talks, while

stressing that “state terrorism” is still being carried out against his country. “We have just concluded the last session with the UN special envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, within the framework of the current Geneva round, which we agreed to call it the 6th round of Geneva,” Ja’afari said in the Swiss city on Friday. “We would like to remind the attendees that state terrorism is being practiced against our country,” he added in reference to a U.S. airstrike that targeted anti-Daesh forces in Syria. “The important thing is that our political ambition is higher because we want to focus on fighting terrorism represented by armed groups and the state and government terrorism happening against our country. This includes the American aggression, French aggression and British aggression, whether on civilian or military targets,” he added. According to a Syrian government military source, the U.S. strike killed several people and caused material damage. The source said the attack hampered efforts by the Syrian army and its allies to fight Daesh terrorists who have been wreaking havoc in Iraq and Syria for years.

Turkey Targets Opposition Daily Crew



A person walks past a newspaper stand showing the front pages of Turkish newspapers on display, in Istanbul, March 13, 2017.

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish authorities have issued arrest warrants for the chief executive and several staff members of an opposition daily in Istanbul, as a crackdown continues in the wake of an abortive military coup last year. Istanbul prosecutors had issued detention warrants for Burak Akbay, the owner of the critical daily Sozcu, as well as three other members, includ-

ing a correspondent, who were accused of links to U.S.-based opposition figure Fethullah Gulen, the CNN Turk broadcaster said on Friday. The Turkish government accuses Gulen of having been behind the July 2016 coup attempt, a charge he has denied. “[The operation] is about the executives of daily Sozcu. He [Akbay] is already a fugitive and there is an

arrest warrant for him. There are detentions and the investigation is ongoing,” Chief Public Prosecutor Irfan Fidan said in an interview with the Turkish Dogan News Agency, without giving details. “Proceedings are only being conducted against its manager and some staff members,” he added. Akbay, who the CNN Turk said was in London, later announced in a statement that he was “being targeted because I produce right and honest journalism.” According to state-run Anadolu Agency, the four individuals were accused of “being a member of terror organization and committing crime on behalf of the organization,” “assault against the president,” and “armed insurgency against the Turkish government.” The Turkish government says Gulen’s supporters, some of them embedded in government institutions, run a clandestine movement that Ankara describes as a terror organization.

Bahrainis Protest in Support of Shia Cleric Sheikh Qassim

MANAMA (Dispatches) – People in Bahrain have poured onto the streets of the northern village of Abu Saiba to express their solidarity with prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim ahead of his trial by the regime. Demonstrators carried posters bearing the pictures of Sheikh Qassim during the march, urging the Manama regime to end its persecution of the clergyman and other pro-democracy activists in the country. Qassim, the spiritual leader of Bahrain’s dissolved opposition bloc the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, was stripped of his nationality last June over accusations that he used his position to serve foreign interests and promote sectarianism and violence. The cleric, who is in his mid-70s, has denied the allegations. He faces up to 15 years imprisonment if convicted, however. His trial will begin on Sunday. The village of Diraz, where Qassim’s home is situated, has witnessed numerous sit-ins in solidarity with him.

In a relevant development on Friday, Bahraini scholars called on citizens to gather in mosques across on the country on the eve of Qassim’s trial. “Be prepared, for any moment, a religious appeal is issued in the event of any unjust judgment [against Sheikh Qassim],” the scholars said in a statement. They further voiced hope that “all the mosques of Bahrain in all areas [would] be filled with men and women” on the eve of Qassim’s trial. Bahrain’s tyranny and its insistence on Qassim’s trial had strengthened the people’s resolve to oppose the regime, they added. Bahrain has been the scene of anti-regime protests on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the country in February 2011. People have been demanding that the Al Khalifah dynasty relinquish power and let a just system representing all Bahrainis be established. Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others wounded or detained amid Manama’s crackdown on dissent and widespread discrimination against Bahrain’s Shia majority.