

Palestinian Baby Dies After Inhaling Israeli Teargas

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A Palestinian baby has died of asphyxiation two months after inhaling fatal volumes of teargas fired by Zionist troops at Palestinian protesters.

Abdul-Rahman Mohammad al-Barghouti, 1.5 years old, died at a hospital in the city of Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian Safa news agency reported.

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Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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Iraqi Gov't Forces Fully Recapture Mosul

'U.S., Russia Reach Agreement on Truce in Syria'



Members of the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service stand amid destroyed buildings in the Old City of Mosul on July 7, 2017, during the Iraqi government forces' fight against Daesh terrorists.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi government forces have wrested complete control over the Old City of Mosul, which served as the last bastion of Daesh terrorists in the Arab country's second largest city.

The spokesman for the Iraqi Joint Operations Command, Brigadier General Yahia Rasoul, announced on Saturday that army troops had regained control over the strategic area, where Daesh leader Ibrahim al-Samarrai aka Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the extremists' self-styled "caliphate" back in July

2014. The media bureau of the Iraqi Defense Ministry also stated that government forces had killed 35 Daesh members and wounded six others while they were sneaking from the western flank of Mosul into the eastern side.

Iraqi army soldiers and volunteer fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units, commonly known by their Arabic name, Hashd al-Sha'abi, have made sweeping gains against Daesh since launching the Mosul operation on October 17,

2016. The Iraqi forces took control of eastern Mosul in January after 100 days of fighting, and launched the battle in the west on February 19.

An estimated 862,000 people have been displaced from Mosul ever since the battle to retake the city began nine months ago. A total of 195,000 civilians have also returned, mainly to the liberated areas of eastern Mosul.

Separately on Saturday, Arabic-language al-Sumaria television network, said 35 Daesh elements,

who had fled the Old City and were trying to infiltrate into the city's east, were killed and six others were arrested.

On Friday, an Iraqi federal police officer said clashes left 83 terrorists dead in the same region.

Three Daesh bases were destroyed and a bomb manufacturing factory and a tunnel were uncovered, he added.

Meanwhile, the terrorist commander ranked second in the terrorist group has reportedly been killed during fierce street battles with Iraqi government forces in the Old City of Mosul.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Arabic-language al-Forat news agency that the top-ranked extremist, identified by the nom de guerre Abu Yahya Iraqi, was the deputy of purported Daesh leader Ibrahim al-Samarrai aka Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Meanwhile, a top Daesh commander, known as Abu Nasser al-Shami, has been killed in the cellar district of Mosul's Old City.

Separately, two Iraqi journalists working for the Arabic-language and privately owned Hona Salaheddin television network have been killed by Daesh extremists in a village south of Mosul.

The channel announced in a statement that its correspondent Harb Hazaa al-Dulaimi and cameraman Sudad al-Duri had been killed on the outskirts of the village of Imam al-Gharbi.



The photo shows destroyed buildings in northwestern Aleppo, Syria, July 5, 2017.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – The United States and Russia have reached a deal on a truce in southwestern Syria, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

He said President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed on the truce deal during talks held in a "constructive atmosphere" on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany. Lavrov said the ceasefire would take effect from July 9.

Earlier, three U.S. officials, who asked not to be named as they were not authorized to discuss the ceasefire publicly, said the truce was set to take effect Sunday at noon Damascus time. They did not elaborate on the deal and how it would be implemented.

The trio said Moscow and Washington had been discussing a potential deal for some time, but it only reached fruition in the run-up to Trump's first meeting with Putin.

Jordan's state news agency Petra reported that the kingdom was also part of the ceasefire.

'Positive Development'

The UN Deputy Special Envoy for Syria said on Saturday that a ceasefire deal agreed for southwestern Syria is a positive development that could help prop

up the political process aimed at ending the country's six-year war.

"This is a step in the right direction," Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy told reporters in Damascus.

"All of this leads to supporting the political process," Ramzy said after meeting with government officials about UN-based talks that open in Geneva next week.

"This development helps create the appropriate environment for the talks," he added, expressing hope that agreements would be reached for other parts of Syria as well.

Among other issues, the latest round of UN talks, due to start on Monday, will include "continuing technical negotiations about the constitutional and legal matters related to the political process," Ramzy said.

The agreement is separate from "de-escalation zones" that were to be created under a deal mediated by Russia, Iran and Turkey during the fourth round of peace talks in Astana in May.

Syria has been hit by deadly foreign-backed terrorism since March 2011. Russia and the United States have been supporting opposing sides in the conflict in Syria with Moscow backing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Washington backing terrorists fighting to topple the Damascus government.

Zionist Regime Pulls UN Funding After al-Khalil Declared Heritage Site

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The UN cultural organization declared an ancient shrine in the occupied West Bank a Palestinian heritage site on Friday, prompting the Zionist regime to further cut its funding to the United Nations.

UNESCO designated al-Khalil and the two adjoined shrines at its heart - the Jewish Tomb of the Patriarchs and the Muslim Ibrahimi Mosque - a "Palestinian World Heritage Site in Danger".

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called that "another delusional UNESCO decision" and ordered that \$1 million be diverted from the regime's UN funding to establish a museum and other projects covering Jewish heritage in al-Khalil.

The funding cut is the occupying

regime's fourth in the past year, taking its UN contribution from \$11 million to just \$1.7 million, an Israeli official said. Each cut has come after various UN bodies voted to adopt decisions which the regime said discriminated against it.

Palestinian Foreign Minister, Reyad Al-Maliki, said the UNESCO vote, at a meeting in Krakow, Poland, was proof of the "successful diplomatic battle Palestine has launched on all fronts in the face of Israeli and American pressure on (UNESCO) member countries."

Al-Khalil is the largest Palestinian city in the occupied West Bank with a population of some 200,000. About 1,000 Zionist settlers live in the heart of the city and for years it has been a place of friction between Muslims and Zionists.

Qatar Rejects Saudi-Led Bloc's New Claims

DOHA (Dispatches) – Qatar has rejected new claims by a Saudi-led bloc of countries that it "finances terrorism" and intervenes in their internal affairs.

"The State of Qatar's position on terrorism is consistent and known for its rejection and condemnation of all forms of terrorism, whatever the causes and motives," the state Qatar News Agency quoted a senior Foreign Ministry source as saying.

The bloc, consisting of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates, severed diplomatic ties and cut all land, sea, and air routes with Qatar on June 5, accusing it of supporting terrorism and destabilizing the region, allegations denied by Doha.

They later issued a 13-point list of

demands for Doha to meet in order for the relations to be restored. Among them was that Qatar close a Turkish military base, limit its ties with Iran, and "compensate" the sanctioning countries. They also demanded that Al Jazeera, a media network that has reportedly been critical of Saudi Arabia and the other boycotting countries, be closed.

Doha has refused to meet the "unreasonable" demands, but it has also voiced readiness for a negotiated solution to the standoff.

Foreign ministers from the bloc of countries boycotting Qatar met in Cairo on Wednesday. They later released a statement, saying Doha's rejection of the demands "proved" its link with terrorism.

Ali Sharif al-Emadi, the Qatari finance minister, told The Times that his country's huge financial reserves, built on the sales of natural gas over decades, meant it could withstand the sanctions by the Saudi-led countries.

"We have sovereign wealth funds of 250 percent of gross domestic product; we have Qatar Central Bank reserves; and we have a Ministry of Finance strategic reserve," he said.

Meanwhile, the Suez Canal Authority says Egypt cannot bar Qatari ships from crossing the vital waterway, although the North African country, along with Saudi Arabia and its allies, has severed ties with Qatar.

Suez Canal Authority Chairman Mohab Mamish made the remarks in a

statement, adding that the authority is abiding by the Egyptian government's decision to cut relations with Qatar, but international treaties prevent Cairo from blocking the waterway to Qatari vessels.

However, he asserted that Qatari ships would be barred from using Egyptian ports and the canal's economic zone.

The artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt -- one of the world's busiest water corridors through which about 10 percent of the world's trade flows -- connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez. The 193-kilometer waterway, which allows ships to avoid sailing around Africa, is one of Egypt's top foreign currency earners.

Britain's foreign minister Boris Johnson arrived in the Middle East on Friday to meet representatives from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait in a bid to heal a rift between Qatar and other Arab states.

"The Foreign Secretary will urge all parties to get behind Kuwait's mediation efforts, which the UK strongly supports, and work towards de-escalation and (Persian) Gulf unity for the sake of regional stability," the foreign office said in a statement.

"He will also discuss a range of security and bilateral issues with a particular focus on working together to address the common threats of extremism, radicalization and terrorism."

EU Censures New Settlement Units in al-Quds

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – The European Union has denounced the Zionist regime's plans to advance the construction of some "1,500 new settlement units" in the occupied East al-Quds, saying the controversial decision will "undermine" the so-called two-state solution.

In a statement, the EU further said it expected Tel Aviv "to reconsider these decisions."

It also noted that the EU "expects both sides to engage in a meaningful process towards a negotiated two-state

solution, the only way to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of both parties."

The EU statement came a day after French President Emmanuel Macron also strongly criticized the occupying regime's move, which he said "threatened" the so-called two state solution.

"France has always condemned and continues to condemn the ongoing colonization process, which remains illegal with regards to international law," he added during a joint press conference with Palestinian President

Mahmoud Abbas at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

On Monday, Israeli NGO Peace Now said in a report that the Zionist regime was planning to discuss the advancement of some 1,800 settlement units in the area.

After approval, the new units will become the first to be constructed since U.S. President Donald Trump called on Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to limit settlement activities, and will also hinder the so-called peace talks.