

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned the running over of four Palestinian children by a Zionist settler, stating that the incident clearly indicates that the Tel Aviv regime is fanning the flames of radicalism and violence in occupied territories. The ministry, in a statement, held Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the simmering tensions, arguing that the Zionist regime's courts are not serious about putting those liable for crimes against Palestinians on trial.

More wonderful than man himself is that part of his body which is connected with his trunk with muscles. It is his brain (mind). Look what good and bad tendencies arise from it. On the one hand it holds treasures of knowledge and wisdom and on the other it is found to harbor very ugly desires.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Syria Liberates Last Daesh Stronghold in Homs

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian army and its allied forces have flushed out Daesh terrorists from their last stronghold in Syria's sprawling central province of Homs.

Syrian media reported on Saturday that the key town of al-Sukhna had been completely purged of Daesh terrorists.

Footage that circulated on social media showed Syrian soldiers firing celebratory gunfire and showed the terrorists' deserted arms caches and hideouts in the town.

Sukhna is some 50 kilometers away from the border separating Homs from the neighboring Dayr al-Zawr Province. The latter is the last territory in the Arab country where Daesh maintains relatively substantive presence.

The government has also had its forces enter Dayr al-Zawr from the south.

Meanwhile, human rights groups have expressed concerns over the mounting civilian cost of airstrikes being carried out by the U.S.-led coalition purportedly fighting Daesh



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terrorists in Syria, stressing that the military contingent must be more transparent in how it makes targeting decisions.

"The coalition is not taking any precautions to avoid civilian casualties," Aghid al-Khodir, a senior editor at Sound and Picture, an organization that maintains a network of covert correspondents in Raqqah –

the de facto Daesh capital in Syria, said.

"The number of Daesh fighters in the city does not exceed 500, but if they're going to destroy a residential building and wipe out all the people in it every time they want to kill a Daesh fighter then they will be purging the city from both Daesh and the residents," he added.

Rights groups further argued that the US-led airstrikes have on some occasions endangered large groups of civilians in an effort to kill a single Daesh militant.

"There are definitely grounds for caution and concern and the need to beef up the process by which targets are selected," Nadim Houry, the director of the terrorism and counter-terrorism program at Human Rights Watch, said.

"We know that Daesh fights from civilian areas and in some cases intentionally uses civilians to protect itself," he pointed out.

"The coalition still has the obligation to minimize civilian casualties and have a robust mechanism in place. When it fails the result can be very deadly for civilians, so an investigation of these strikes is essential," Houry noted.

The U.S.-led coalition has been conducting airstrikes against what are said to be Daesh targets inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

Yemeni Naval Forces Sink Saudi-Led Coalition Vessel

SANAA (Dispatches) – Yemeni naval forces, backed by fighters from Popular Committees, have reportedly targeted and destroyed a military vessel in a missile attack off the coast of the country's southwestern province of Ta'izz.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Arabic-language al-Masirah television network that the frigate was targeted with a guided missile in waters near the port city of Mukha, situated 346 kilometers south of the capital Sana'a, on Saturday.

On July 29, 12 Emirati troopers lost their lives and another 23 sustained injuries when their frigate was targeted with a guided missile off the coast of Mukha.

An unnamed military source

told Yemen's official SABA news agency that the vessel was heavily loaded with various munitions, and the missile attack caused a series of explosions that lasted until 8:30 p.m. local time (1730 GMT), before water-dropping planes could extinguish the flames.

UAE Military Chopper Crashes

In another development, a Black Hawk helicopter, belonging to the United Arab Emirates, has crashed in southern Yemen, killing four of its crew.

According to Yemen's official Saba news agency, the chopper crashed in the Amqeel area of Ar Rawdah district in the south-central Yemeni province of Shabwah on Friday afternoon.

The general command of the UAE's armed forces confirmed that four of its soldiers were killed after their helicopter was hit by a technical fault.

However, AFP quoted Colonel Turki al-Maliki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led military coalition engaged in a war in Yemen, as saying the pilot made an emergency landing in the area due to "a technical defect while returning from an operation in Yemen."

Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia has been heavily bombarding Yemen as part of a brutal campaign against its impoverished southern neighbor in an attempt to reinstall Yemen's former President Abd

Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh, and crush the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement, which is in control of large parts of Yemen, including the capital Sana'a.

Meanwhile, the United Nations' Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed has arrived in the Iranian capital, Tehran, to discuss the Yemeni conflict with Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Cheikh Ahmed arrived in Tehran on Saturday and would meet Minister Zarif and other officials, including Zarif's deputy for Arab and African affairs, Hossein Jaber Ansari, later in the day, according to ISNA.

This is Cheikh Ahmed's second visit to Iran.

Jordan Blocking Zionist Envoy's Return Over Shooting

AMMAN (Dispatches) – Jordan is barring the Zionist regime's ambassador to Amman from returning to the Arab country until legal action is taken against a Zionist regime embassy guard who recently killed two Jordanian citizens, says a Jordanian official.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior Jordanian government official told the Associated Press that Jordan had called on Tel Aviv to "hold on" when asked to allow the regime's Ambassador Einat Schlein to return to Amman.

He said Jordan wanted due legal action to be taken against the embassy

guard first.

On July 23, the guard, Ziv Moyal, shot and killed two Jordanians, alleging that one of them, 17-year-old Mohammed al-Jawawdeh, had attempted to attack him with a screwdriver. The other victim was apparently shot by stray bullets fired by the Israeli guard.

Israel's Foreign Ministry has claimed that the guard acted in self-defense.

However, Jordanian police say the security officer shot Jawawdeh — who worked for a furniture company and was delivering an order — after they got into a brawl.

Bahrainis Demonstrate in Support of Top Shia Cleric

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Scores of Bahraini people have staged fresh protests in a northern region to express solidarity with prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim and his supporters, who have been subject to a heavy-handed regime crackdown.

The protesters took to the streets in the northern village of Abu Saiba on Friday to voice their anger at the Bahraini regime's continued siege against the house of Sheikh Isa Qassim and the crackdown on anti-regime activists.

The demonstration marked the 80th day of the top Shia cleric's detention under house ar-

rest.

Sheikh Qassim is the spiritual leader of Bahrain's dissolved opposition bloc, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, who was stripped of his citizenship on June last year over accusations that he used his position to serve foreign interests and promote "sectarianism" and "violence." He has denied the allegations.

In May, the cleric was convicted in a court of "illegal collection of funds and money laundering" and sentenced to one year in jail suspended for three years. The charges emanate from the collection of an Islamic donation

called Khums, a religious practice by a senior cleric in Shia Islam to collect and spend donations in the interests of the needy.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the kingdom in mid-February 2011.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah dynasty relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others

Nobel Laureates Urge Saudi Arabia to Halt Execution of 14 Shias

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Ten Nobel laureates from across the world have called on Saudi Arabia to hold off on the execution of 14 Shia citizens convicted of protest-related charges.

In an open letter, the laureates urged King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, his son, to "extend the hand of mercy" and refrain from ratifying the death sentences.

"Mujtaba al-Sweika, a bright 18-year-old student in Saudi Arabia, was on his way to visit Western Michigan University in 2012 when he was arrested in the airport in Riyadh. Among his charges is starting a Facebook group and posting images of a demonstration online," read the letter.

"Another defendant, Ali al-Nimr, was charged with setting up a Blackberry page named 'The Liberals' and posting photos of the demonstrations, inviting people to participate," it added.

The signatories to the letter include anti-apartheid leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Yemeni activist Tawakkul Karman, Iranian lawyer Shirin Ebadi, former East Timor president Jose Ramos-Horta, U.S. anti-landmine activist Jody Williams, Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, South African former president F.W. De Klerk, Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee, Polish labor rights activist Lech Walesa and peace activist Mairead Maguire of Northern Ireland.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (HRW) have accused Saudi authorities of getting confessions from the defendants under torture and of failing to hold fair trials for them.

The 14 Shia men now face imminent risk of execution after Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court upheld their death sentences in mid-July.

The 14 men were among 24 defendants in a mass trial known as the "Qatif 24" case. In June 2016, the Specialized Criminal Court sentenced the Shia men to death.

The defendants were convicted based on confessions they later repudiated in court. They said the confessions were made under torture.

HRW has warned that Saudi Arabia's execution rate has accelerated since the country's leadership change on June 21, saying the kingdom has executed 35 people during the period, compared with 39 in the first half of 2017.

Saudi Arabia carried out 153 executions across the kingdom last year. In the most stunning case of executions in 2016, Saudi Arabia executed on January 2 Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr along with 46 other people in defiance of international calls for the release of the prominent Shia cleric and other jailed political dissidents in the kingdom.

Saudi officials execute convicts by sword and then dangle their corpses from a helicopter to make sure the public could see the result of the execution.

'U.S. Jets Make Landings on Daesh-Held Territory in Iraq'



Members of the Iraqi pro-government Popular Mobilization Units (Hashd al-Sha'abi) gather in a street in the modern town of Hatra, to the southwest of the Iraqi city of Mosul, April 28, 2017.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units says it is in possession of evidence showing that American aircraft have made flights to territory controlled by Daesh, possibly indicating secret interactions between the United States and the terrorist group.

Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the PMU's second-in-command, said during a press conference in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, that there was evidence to prove American aircraft had made landings on Daesh-occupied territory in Iraq.

He did not provide more details but seemed to suggest that the U.S. was in some form of cooperation with Daesh on Iraqi territory.

The U.S. and its allies have been conducting a campaign of airstrikes against what they say are Daesh positions inside Iraq and

Syria since 2014. However, the air raids have not fulfilled their declared aim of dislodging Daesh.

Muhandis also touched on the situation in the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar, saying it is encircled by the Iraqi forces, who he said were now awaiting Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's order to launch the liberation operation.

Last month, Iraqi forces fully recaptured the city of Mosul, Daesh's de facto capital in the Arab country.

The Iraqi commander also provided information on the PMU's role in counter-terrorism operations in neighboring Syria, explaining that the group had not advanced into Syrian territory but had rather targeted Daesh positions there with artillery and missile attacks.