'Zionist Rabbis Smuggling, Selling Jewish Babies in U.S.'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A recent report has revealed that a network of Zionist rabbis has been actively involved in the underground baby trafficking trade and smuggling pregnant women from the occupied territories to the United States to sell their newborn babies there.

According to a report published by Hebrew-language Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper on Monday, the network was run by Haim Aharon Yosefi, who is a well-known businessman and figure in the world of ultra-Orthodox Haredi Judaism.

During his meetings with Devorah Leah, the undercover investigator who presented herself as a young pregnant Haredi woman, Yosefi revealed that he takes young, pregnant Haredi women from Israel to the United States to give birth before giving the child away in an "adoption" arrangement for a fee.

Yosefi, who is also a member of Degel HaTorah – the Lithuanian faction of the United Torah Judaism party – told the woman that she would get

\$50,000 in exchange for her fetus.

"If I tell you who I'm connected to, you'll be blown away; officials in the Interior Ministry, army, the police and different municipalities. I once had an arrangement with an official in the Interior Ministry where I would provide her with interest-free loans and she would help me in return," he told

Devorah's first meeting with Yosefi took place at a hotel in al-Quds, while her second and third meetings were held in the basement office of ultra-Orthodox Lev Shomea organization.

Yosefi then outlined the entire birthing process to Devorah, beginning with his accompanying her to the US up to the birth itself.

The well-known rabbi noted that he would then organize a "host family" in the US, with whom she would live until the birth. He said the family would cover all expenses, including clothing, makeup, medical insurance, the birth and doctors.

Yosefi also told Devorah that he



This file photo shows Haim Aharon Yosefi, a well-known businessman and figure in the world of ultra-Orthodox Haredi Judaism.

could assist her with "a bag of excuses" if her parents inquired about the period of time she had to disappear and go to the United States.

Yedioth Ahronoth learned of Yosefi's activities through testimony provided by a woman named Esther, who recounted her experiences with him when her infant son was sold to a couple in the United States.

Six months ago, Yosefi was arrested and interrogated on suspicion of document forging and issuing exemptions to young ultra-Orthodox men through psychiatrists who work with the Zionist regime's military.

Lebanese Army Tightens Noose Around Daesh



Fighters from the Syrian army and Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement take position on the western mountains of Qalamoun, near Damascus on July 23, 2017.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The Lebanese army says its forces have advanced along the Syrian border, tightening the noose on the areas controlled by Daesh Takfiri terrorists.

Militants left bombs and explosive

belts behind in the areas captured by the Lebanese troops on the edge of the Lebanese border town of Arsal on Tuesday, the army said in a statement.

The body of an unidentified man was also discovered in the areas, the

statement said.

At present, only Daesh terrorists have remained in the area, as militants affiliated with the Levant People's Brigades and al-Qaeda have left the area.

The Lebanese army has been making preparations to launch massive offensive on Daesh positions along the Syrian border for weeks, massing reinforcements and bombing the area with artillery shells and rockets.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement and the Syrian army are preparing to launch a simultaneous attack on the Syrian side of the border.

On Monday, 3,000 Syrian refugees and 300 Saraya Ahl al-Sham terrorists started evacuating eastern Arsal after the defeat of Takfiri terrorists during a Hezbollah offensive.

The departure comes as part of an agreement that followed a July's offensive by the Lebanese resistance movement and the Syrian army to

drive out militants from their last stronghold in the border area between Lebanon and Syria.

Earlier this month, the Lebanese resistance movement said its fighters had regained control over all areas in Arsal, which lies about 124 kilometers northeast of Beirut.

Former Al-Nusra Front terrorists, now known as Fateh al-Sham, withdrew following a series of consecutive defeats that forced them to agree to a ceasefire.

Under the truce deal, the Syrian government will shuttle the militants and their families to Idlib Province and some other areas.

Hezbollah launched a major push on July 21 to clear both sides of Lebanon's border with Syria of "armed terrorists." Hezbollah fighters have fended off several Daesh attacks inside Lebanon. They have also been providing assistance to Syrian army forces to counter the ongoing foreign-sponsored militancy.

Zionist Regime Arrests Islamic Movement Leader

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's troops have arrested the leader of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in the occupied territories for allegedly inciting violence and involvement in an outlawed organization.

Israeli police spokeswoman, Luba al-Samri, said a large police force arrived in the Mahajina neighborhood of Umm al-Fahm city, located 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of Jenin, and arrested Sheikh Raed Salah.

Samri added that Salah is accused of "inciting violence and terrorism, as well as affiliation with and support of an illegal and banned union."

"According to available information, the suspect delivered inciting speeches before crowds and a number of his quotes were disseminated on different media outlets," she said, noting that the Lahav 433, a special investigation unit of the Israeli police, was interrogating him.

Samri went on to say that Salah had been referred to a magistrate court in Rishon Lezion in central Israel to extend his remand for further investigations

Salah was released in January of this year after 9 months of detention.

On May 8, 2016, the head of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in the occupied territories began a nine-month prison term handed down

to him on charges of promoting anti-Israel hatred at Ohalei Kedar Prison, located north of the southern Israeli city of Beersheba.

Israel's so-called High Court of Justice had reduced the influential Palestinian cleric's original 11-month sentence to nine months on April 18.

The case was brought against Salah after he delivered a sermon in the Wadi al-Joz neighborhood near occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds in 2007, in which he condemned "Israeli racist policies in al-Quds."

Salah, during that sermon, demanded that the regime stop its restrictions on Muslims to worship freely at al-Aqsa Mosque compound. He also called for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Israeli police subsequently banned him from praying at al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

In November 2015, Israeli authorities shuttered the offices of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel, accusing it of being behind the recent wave of tensions in the occupied Palestinian lands.

The occupied territories have witnessed a fresh bout of tensions ever since Israeli forces introduced restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds in August 2015.

Iraq Minister Faces Questions Over Trade Corruption Allegations

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq's parliament has questioned acting Trade Minister Salman al-Jumaili over corruption allegations linked to the ministry, mostly stemming from a deal to import Indian rice in 2016.

The minister was questioned by lawmaker Alia Nussayif and denied any wrongdoing by the ministry.

Allegations included importing and distributing contaminated rice and questionable licenses for new wheat mills that went against regulations

for the subsidy program.

Jumaili told the parliament that of the 40,000-tonne rice cargo in question, only 4,000

tonnes were infected by a bug, and that quantity was rejected and funds for it returned, parliament sources said.

Nussayif said that the cargo, which was distributed to the Iraqi market, was dangerous to public health and had to be fumigated three times.

Parliament said it would continue discussing the issue in future sessions.

Iraq, a major rice and wheat importer, has previously faced graft accusations connected to its trade ministry, which purchases strategic commodities.

The trade ministry has been struggling to import grains for its food subsidy program this year

after introducing new payment and quality terms that kept traders away from its international tenders

In May, the cabinet authorized the ministry to make direct purchases of wheat and rice to guarantee food security, a reflection of its struggle to garner enough interest through its tender process.

Iraq is expected to produce around 250,000 tonnes of rice this year suggesting an import gap of around 1 million tonnes.

Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi has promised to tackle corruption in a political system that doles out positions along ethnic and sectarian lines, creating powerful patronage networks.

Supremacists... (Continued From Page One)

Senior Democrat and senate minority leader, Chuck Schumer, said

Trump's purported neutrality was indicative of his sympathies. "By saying he is not taking sides, Donald Trump clearly is. When David Duke and white supremacists cheer, you're doing it very very wrong," he

The Trump campaign targeted minority groups, including immigrants from Latin America, refugees, and Muslims.

Trump, a former reality TV star, has described immigrants from Mexico as "drug dealers, criminals, rapists" and called for a complete shutdown of Muslims entering the U.S.

A watered down version of his Muslim ban was later introduced, only to be rejected by courts.

Iranian ...

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that the three countries could deploy a force to police the Idlib region.

"The negotiations regarding the Idlib issue are still ongoing," Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told Turkish broadcaster TRT Haber on Wednesday.

"After the Iranian chief of staff, the Russian chief of staff will also come to Turkey," he added.

Turkey has said for months that it is close to buying an S-400 missile

defense system from Russia, and Erdogan said in July that the deal had already been signed.

Cavusoglu said Russia understood Turkey's sensitivities about arming

Cavusoglu said Russia understood Turkey's sensitivities about arming Kurdish fighters better than the United States, although he said U.S. officials had informed Turkey that the most recent shipments to the YPG did not include guns.

"The United States gives us reports about how many weapons they have given to the YPG every month," he said. The latest "said they gave armored vehicles and a bulldozer, but no guns."

Turkey's stepped-up military talks with Iran and Russia coincide with a major oil and gas deal involving firms from the three countries.

The Turkish firm Unit International said this week it has signed a \$7 billion agreement with Russia's state-owned Zarubezhneft and Iran's Ghadir Investment Holding to drill for oil and natural gas in Iran.

Turkey is also discussing transporting more goods through Iran to the Persian Gulf state of Qatar, which is locked in a dispute with its neighbors Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Leaks...

(Continued From Page One)

with Otaiba. In an email to the MEE, he said: "I do not know if the people in question ever met but I do not believe the specific meeting to which you refer ever happened."

The contacts between Otaiba and Rubin are among a number of conversations captured between the diplomat and Satloff, who has long served the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), a spinoff of the powerful American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) pressure group whose analysts and scholars are almost exclusively pro-Zionist.

Satloff opened his note by thanking the UAE ambassador for "the generous new year's gift", without specifying what he had been given.

Satloff solicited Otaiba in February 2012 for an exclusive dinner, that he can feel free to pay for: "This is a bit presumptuous but would consider hosting our most important lay leaders - our board of directors - for dinner at your home? They (about 15 or so) will be in town for a meeting... on the evening of Tuesday, 6 March."

Sensing opportunity, Otaiba replied: "That's a great idea. Happy to host such a powerful group on such a critical topic. My only request is we keep it off the record and discreet."

WINEP's board includes such figures as Peter Lowy, the executive director of Westfield and son of Australian billionaire and right-wing Israel supporter Frank Lowy.

It also includes its founder, Barbi Weinberg, a former AIPAC vice president. Weinberg, along with AIPAC's then-deputy director of research Martin Indyk, helped create WINEP as a separate entity in the 1980s to offer distance for their pro-Zionist policy ideas, a recognition of the "image problem" encountered by authoring U.S. policy ideas on AIPAC letterhead.

After the March 2012 dinner, Satloff wrote to Otaiba to inform him "you earned a houseful of friends last night", and heaped praise on the UAE ambassador for his "striking candor" with WINEP's board, "opening" their "eyes to the real anxiety UAE has re: Iran".

Otaiba assured Satloff: "I truly enjoyed the conversation. My main message was the alignment of Israel and many of the Arab countries when it comes to Iran."

Satloff would not disclose who attended the dinner, but told MEE such events with a "broad range of U.S. and foreign officials" are a "regular occurrence" and that to "suggest or imply otherwise underscores the conspiratorial, rather than newsworthy tenor of your inquiry."

Satloff would continue to seek more engagements with his Emirati friend. Since 1996 WINEP has hosted a range of Israeli military and intelligence officers as visiting fellows in its Washington offices, partly to influence Washington's debate on matters including Palestine and Iran.

Satloff asked Otaiba to consider allowing UAE officials to work at WINEP as visiting fellows, a sign of how closely regarded the Persian Gulf country has become in the eyes of America's hawkish pro-Israel community.

Otaiba had earlier promised Satloff to "look into this one and see how our military folks respond."

The UAE does not have official diplomatic relations with the occupying regime of Israel. However, in November 2015, the government of Abu Dhabi allowed Israel to establish a diplomatic office for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), based in the Emirati capital.

MEE and Haaretz reported in 2015 that a private jet was flying at least twice a week between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi. A 2012 report by the French Intelligence Online website said AGT International had signed a contract worth \$800m to provide Abu Dhabi's Critical National Infrastructure Authority with "surveillance cameras, electronic fences and sensors to monitor strategic infrastructure and oil fields".