

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Russia is to send 175 de-mining engineers to defuse mines in Syria's Dayr al-Zawr, Interfax news agency quoted Russia's Defense Ministry as saying on Monday.

The first detachment of 40 de-miners has already been deployed to Russia's Hmeimim air base in Syria, the ministry said.

Syrian government forces converged on Daesh terrorists in separate offensives against the terrorists in the eastern Syrian province of Dayr al-Zawr on Sunday.

I appreciate an old man's cautious opinion more than the valor of a young man.

I wonder at a man who loses hope of salvation when the door of repentance is open for him.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## 'U.S. Forces Had Better Leave Syria on Their Own'



Major General Issam Zahreddine (C-R) of the Syrian Republican Guard talks with civilians in the eastern city of Dayr al-Zawr on September 10, 2017, as forces continue to press forward with Russian air cover in the offensive against Daesh.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The United States forces in Syria had better leave Syrian territory on their own, otherwise, they would be treated as "occupying forces", a senior Syrian official says.

In an interview with Lebanon's Al Mayadeen television channel, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal

al-Mekdad said the presence of any foreign forces in Syria would be unacceptable.

Any party seeking to fight terrorism has to coordinate with the Syrian army, Mekdad said, adding that the American forces had destroyed infrastructure in Syria and their activities "worked to serve terrorism."

An armed conflict broke out in Syria in 2011 and soon transformed into a foreign-backed terrorism by a hodgepodge of terrorist groups, including Daesh. Since September 2014, the U.S. has been leading a coalition of its allies in an aerial bombardment campaign against what it says are Daesh positions in Syria.

The U.S.-led coalition has not obtained permission to operate within Syrian borders, has not been in coordination with the Syrian government or military, and has failed to achieve its declared goal of degrading and destroying Daesh.

The development comes as Syrian army soldiers, backed by allied fighters from popular defense groups, managed to regain full control over a power station in Dayr al-Zawr as they push to drive the Daesh terrorists out of the strategic eastern city.

Syrian government forces and their allies recaptured the facility, which lies west of Dayr al-Zawr air base, following intense clashes with Daesh terrorists, pro-government and Arabic-language al-Masdar news agency reported.

Moreover, Syrian soldiers managed to wrest control over the highway linking Dayr al-Zawr to the city of Suknah, and advanced on the Brigade 137 base as well as al-Panorama district. Scores of Daesh terrorists were killed and injured during the operations and their military hardware destroyed.

Syrian army units also tightened the noose around scores of Daesh terrorists on the outskirts of al-Taim oil field, killing and injuring many of them.

## After Tal Afar Liberation 1400 Foreign Women, Children Left Behind by Daesh



Children of families of Daesh terrorists are seen after they surrender themselves to the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in al-Ayadiya, northwest of Tal Afar Iraq August 30, 2017.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – After being expelled from Tal Afar, the Daesh terrorist group has left behind some 1,400 foreign wives and children, who are now in the custody of the Iraqi government.

According to Iraqi security and aid officials, those left behind are mostly from Russia, Turkey, and Central Asia, with some also from European countries.

Iraqi officials are currently engaged in the process of verifying their identities and nationalities, as many of the women have lost or destroyed their original credentials.

The group, which is the largest group of foreigners linked to Daesh in Iraq, are currently being housed in a specially-designated camp, which they are not permitted to leave.

On August 31, Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced that the northern city of Tal Afar and the entire Nineveh province have been purged of the Daesh terrorists.

The Iraqi government is currently negotiating with the women's home country embassies for their returning home.

"I want to go back (to France) but don't know how," said a French-speaking woman of Chechen origin who claims to come from Paris. She also said that she had no idea concerning the current whereabouts of her husband who brought her to Iraq to

join the terrorists.

Some of the women claim that they were tricked by their husbands into joining the terrorists during trips to Turkey.

"My mother doesn't even know where I am," said a French woman of Algerian descent. "I had just given birth to this little girl three months ago... He said 'let's go for a week's holiday in Turkey.' He had already bought the plane tickets and the hotel," she added.

Tal Afar, situated about 150 kilometers from Syria's border, was among the last Daesh-held cities in Iraq. The liberation of Tal Afar deprives Daesh of what was once a key supply route between its territory in Syria and Iraq.

Iraqi army soldiers and allied fighters from Popular Mobilization Units have been leading a major operation to rid the country of the terrorists.

Iraqi forces launched the Tal Afar liberation operation on August 20, one month after fully recapturing the country's second biggest city, Mosul, which was Daesh's so-called "capital" in Iraq.

Daesh unleashed a campaign of death and destruction in Iraq in 2014, but it is currently retreating from much of the territory under its control in the Arab country due to recent advances made by the Iraqi forces on the battlefield.

## Amid Arab Dispute Iraq's FM Talks to Qatari Counterpart

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari has held a telephone conversation with his Qatari counterpart, discussing an ongoing dispute between Qatar and a number of other Arab countries, Qatari media say.

The state-run Qatar News Agency (QNA) and Qatari Al Sharq newspaper reported that Jaafari had talked to Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

The two discussed bilateral relations and a bitter dispute that has been going on between Qatar on the one side and Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Bahrain on the other since late April.

There were no more details about the conversation.

Iraq has sought to stay neutral in the dispute among the Arab countries, and it was not clear who initiated the Sunday phone call. But the news

is likely to draw some kind of reaction from Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh is considered the force behind the row with Qatar. It has accused Doha of "sponsoring terrorism" and led the other three Arab states in boycotting Qatar, including by laying a partial siege to the country.

Saudi Arabia has in the recent past attempted to cozy up to Iraq. Riyadh opened its embassy in Iraq in 2015 following a 25-year break. Various figures have exchanged bilateral visits more recently.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump's attempt to cool escalating tensions between Saudi Arabia and Qatar has ended up in failure this week as the two Arab kingdoms release conflicting statements shortly after a phone conversation organized by Trump.

The U.S.-based New York Times reported that Trump arranged the phone call and promised a

breakthrough in the bitter dispute that threatens U.S. security interests among despotic Arab allies in the region, which purchase vast amounts of American weaponry and play host to key U.S. military bases in their countries.

According to the report, Trump stepped into the fray in the past week, offering to mediate in the Qatari-Saudi conflict and vowing a quick victory.

The report noted, however, that Trump's hand may have been weakened by his own insistence on taking sides. After initially backing the Saudis, he then seemed to take a more balanced approach at the urging of his secretary of state Max Tillerson, who is more familiar with leaders on both sides from his previous career as an oil executive.

Qatar is home to the largest American air base in the Middle East and is the center of military operations purportedly against Daesh terrorists in Syria and Iraq.

## '1 in 6 Female Troops in Zionist Army Report Sexual Abuse'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – An internal survey by the Zionist regime's military has found that one in every six female troops has been sexually abused over the course of her enrollment with the forces.

The Jerusalem Post reported the results of the survey which was carried out by the chief of staff of the military's gender adviser. They were collated through anonymous questionnaires sent to thousands of female troops and officers.

The vast majority of the female soldiers said that they had been harassed more than once during their service, the paper said, citing the

findings of the survey.

Six percent of the respondents said they had been harassed two or three times and another 3% responded that they had been harassed four times or more, it added.

The study showed that the number of the respondents reporting four or four-plus instances of harassment "is the highest level since 2004." It also revealed that 60 percent of the female troops could pin down an atmosphere of sexual harassment in the military.

The most high-profile of the cases last year saw charges of rape, sodomy, and indecent acts being leveled

against the Zionist regime's military brigadier general after a special military court managed to corroborate the suspicion that he had committed the abuse against a female subordinate in 2012.

Overall, Ofek Buchris faced 16 charges of sexual assault against the victim and another female trooper. The 48-year-old married father of six recently admitted to the charges in a plea bargain that spared him jail.

His charges included three counts of rape and six counts of indecent acts against a lower-ranking female soldier, as well as another six counts of indecent acts against a second fe-

male soldier.

The issue of sexual misconduct in the Zionist regime's army has given rise to heated debates over the past years.

Last year, the Israeli army said it had launched around 250 investigations into sexual abuse allegations over the previous two years. Twelve of the investigations concerned alleged rape, up from eight in 2014 and five in 2013.

And a year earlier, the Israeli military's Bamahane weekly quoted an Israeli military prosecutor as saying that sex crime allegations in the military had doubled since 2012.

## Zionist Regime Mulls Building Largest Settlement

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime regime is thinking of granting construction permits that will create the largest settlement inside a Palestinian neighborhood, an NGO says.

According to Peace Now, an anti-settlement Israeli NGO, the Local Committee for Planning and Construction of al-Quds was discussing issuing permits for constructing 176 settler units in the heart of the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Jabal Mukaber, which is located east of the city.

The project allows for an expansion of the Nof Zion settlement as new houses, whose plans have already been approved, will be built on top of the existing 91 units.

According to the NGO, granting building permits for the new units is the last major bureaucratic step and the approvals will make Nof Zion the biggest illegal settlement inside any Palestinian neighborhood.

Most settlements, particularly those that have been built in the occupied West Bank, are located out-

side of residential Palestinian areas.

"Within East Jerusalem [al-Quds], it's a very serious development. It's indicative of a trend that we're seeing of settlement expansion inside Palestinian neighborhoods" in the city, said Peace Now spokeswoman Anat Ben Nun.

Since the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump in January, the regime in Tel Aviv has stepped up construction of settler units on the occupied Palestinian land in a blatant violation of international law.

Less than a month before Trump took office, the United Nations Security Council had adopted Resolution 2334, calling on the occupying regime of Tel Aviv to "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem" al-Quds.

About 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds.