

# Saudi Warplanes Bomb Yemen, 9 Civilians Dead

SANAA (Dispatches) – At least nine civilians have been killed when Saudi military aircraft carried out an airstrike against a residential area in Yemen as the Saudi regime presses ahead with an atrocious military campaign against its crisis-hit southern neighbor.

Local sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said four women and five children lost their lives, when Saudi fighter jets bombarded a residential building in the Kushar district of the northwestern province of Hajjah, located approximately 130 kilometers northwest of the capital Sana'a, Arabic-language al-Arabi news website reported.

The sources identified the victims as members of the same family.

Later in the day, Yemeni troopers and allied fighters from Popular Committees fired a medium-range Qaer M2 ballistic missile at a gathering of Saudi-sponsored militiamen loyal to resigned president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in the al-Hazm district of the northern province of Jawf.

There were no immediate reports on possible casualties among the mercenaries and the extent of damage inflicted on their military hardware.

Saudi Arabia has been incessantly pounding Yemen since March 2015 in an attempt to crush the popular Houthis Ansarullah movement and reinstate



A man walks past houses destroyed by Saudi airstrikes in the outskirts of the northwestern city of Sa'ada, Yemen, on September 5, 2017.

Hadi, who is a staunch ally of the Riyadh regime.

More than 12,000 people have been killed since the onset of the campaign more than two and a half years ago. Much of the Arabian Peninsula country's infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and factories, has been reduced

to rubble due to the war.

The Saudi war has also triggered a deadly cholera epidemic across Yemen.

According to data provided by the World Health Organization and Yemen's Health Ministry, the country's cholera outbreak, the worst on record in terms of its rapid spread, has infected 612,703

people and killed 2,048 since it began in April, with some districts still reporting sharp rises in new cases.

The United Nations also says the Saudi war has left some 17 million Yemenis hungry, nearly seven million facing famine, and about 16 million almost without access to water or sanitation.

## Zionist Troops Injure 9 Palestinians in West Bank



Zionist troops take aim towards Palestinian protesters during clashes following a demonstration at Aida refugee camp near the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem on September 15, 2017.

WETS BANK (Dispatches) – At least nine people have sustained

injuries after Zionist troops stormed a town near the occupied al-Quds,

and engaged in clashes with a group of local residents.

Hani Halabia, a local activist, said the Zionist troops raided Abu Dis on Wednesday, triggering clashes with the locals. The troops fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse the crowd, forcing schools and classes at al-Quds University to close.

Halabia added that school children suffered breathing difficulties and had to be evacuated from schools as tear gas smoke had covered the area.

The activist further noted that one protester was struck by a live bullet, while the others were injured by rubber-coated steel bullets.

The occupied Palestinian territories have witnessed new tensions ever since Zionist troops introduced restrictions on the entry

of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds in August 2015.

More than 300 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Zionist troops since the beginning of October 2015.

The Tel Aviv regime has tried to change the demographic makeup of al-Quds over the past decades by constructing settlements, destroying historical sites and expelling the local Palestinian population. Palestinians say the Israeli measures are aimed at paving the way for the Judaization of the city.

The al-Aqsa Mosque compound is a flashpoint Islamic site, which is also holy to Jews. The mosque is Islam's third holiest site after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

## Over Coup Attempt Links Turkish Newspaper Staff Remanded in Custody

ANKARA (Reuters) – A Turkish court has remanded in custody for another two months 21 of the 30 journalists and newspaper executives from Turkish newspaper Zaman which was shut down after last year's failed coup, broadcaster CNN Turk said.

The former employees of the Zaman newspaper are charged with

"membership of an armed terror organization" and "attempting to overthrow" the government, parliament and the constitutional order through their links to cleric Fethullah Gulen.

Zaman was affiliated with Gulen, the U.S.-based cleric and former ally of President Tayyip Erdogan. Gulen is blamed by Ankara for instigating

the failed July 2016 coup, but denies any involvement.

Zaman was first seized by the Turkish government in March 2016 before the coup attempt, and then closed down by a government decree.

The indictment calls for three consecutive life sentences for the Zaman staff on charges of attempting

to overthrow the constitutional order, the Turkish parliament and the Turkish government, and says the newspaper exceeded the limits of press freedom and freedom of expression.

The 21 people remanded in custody had already been jailed for over a year pending trial. CNN Turk said the trial was postponed to Nov. 13.

## Saudi University to Dismiss Suspected Brotherhood-Linked Academics

RIYADH (Reuters) – A large Saudi public university announced it would dismiss employees suspected of ties to the banned Muslim Brotherhood, adding to concerns that the government is clamping down on its critics in academia and beyond.

Activists and rights groups say security forces have rounded up some 30 clerics, intellectuals and others in the past 10 days, in what

Human Rights Watch has described as "a coordinated crackdown on dissent".

Authorities have not explicitly acknowledged the detentions, which come amid widespread speculation - denied by officials - that King Salman will abdicate in favor of his son as well as deepening tensions with neighboring Qatar, which is accused by Riyadh of supporting the groups, including

the Brotherhood.

The governing council of Al-Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh advised against renewing contracts for employees it said were "influenced by the ideology of the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood organization".

The statement, posted online, did not name the employees or specify their number, but said they included

Saudis and foreigners.

The employees' removal "aims to protect the minds of students and university employees from those deviant, partisan ideas and dangerous, destructive trends", it added.

Saudi Arabia designated the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization in 2014. Hardline groups such as al-Qaeda and Daesh are also blacklisted.

## IRGC ...

(Continued From Page One) He saved some of his harshest criticism however for what he said was a possible violation by the United States of a landmark 1987 arms control treaty which bans Russian and American intermediate-range missiles on land.

A senior Trump administration official accused Russia earlier this year of violating the same pact -- the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty -- something Moscow denied.

But Lavrov said it looked like it was Washington, which is in the midst of a \$1 trillion, 30-year modernization of its aging ballistic missile submarines, bombers and land-based missiles, that was in breach of the same treaty.

"We have suspicions on at least three fronts that the Americans are creating weapons systems which violate or could violate the treaty obligations," said Lavrov, who said Moscow had relayed its concerns to the United States.

Lavrov has met U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson twice in New York this week.

French President Emmanuel Macron also said it would be "a grave error" to unwind the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

"Renouncing it would be a grave error, not respecting it would be irresponsible, because it is a good accord that is essential to peace at a time where the risk of an infernal conflagration cannot be excluded," Macron said.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said on Wednesday Trump is unhappy with the Iran nuclear deal but has not signaled he will abandon it.

"It's not a clear signal that he plans to withdraw. What it is, is a clear signal that he's not happy with the deal," the envoy, Nikki Haley, told CBS News of Trump's pugnacious speech.

While world leaders took turn to denounce Trump's threatening language, the occupying regime of Israel's premier Benjamin Netanyahu praised him, calling the rant most "courageous speech" he had ever heard at the world body.

"In over 30 years in my experience with the UN, I never heard a bolder or more courageous speech," Netanyahu said in a statement after the speech.

## UK's ...

(Continued From Page One) "This would damage not only U.S. interests but U.S. international standing and credibility," 76 European leaders wrote in an open letter urging Trump to stick with the agreement.

Should the U.S. abandon the accord, the other countries "would work to see the nuclear deal continued with Iran, even in the absence of U.S. participation, and that could include defending European companies and individuals from any re-introduced U.S. sanctions and supporting legal action to do so."

A U.S. bid to toughen the Iranian accord has inspired unified UN opposition.

The planned 600-megawatt (MW) plant, located in central Iran, will be the sixth largest globally, behind projects of up to 1.5 gigawatts (GW) in China and India.

Diego Biasi, chief executive of Quercus, which has a track record of investing in renewable energy in Europe, told Reuters the firm had decided to go for such a big project to get an endorsement from Iran's Ministry of Energy.

"This is a project of national interest, so we got special support. We had enough investors interested so instead of splitting that across smaller projects which wouldn't have given us the same relationship with the Ministry, we decided to go for one," he said in a phone interview on Tuesday. The hope was this would lead to more solar projects.

Established in 2010, independently-owned Quercus has a portfolio of around 40 renewable energy plants across Europe. The Iran project is its first investment outside Europe, and came in response to client demand, Biasi said.

Under the terms of the agreement signed by Quercus and Iran's Ministry of Energy, the firm will be responsible for the construction, development and operation of the plant.

Construction is expected to take three years, with each 100 MW standalone lot becoming operational and connecting to the grid every six months, to mitigate the risk for investors.

Rather than investing via a fund structure, Quercus will set up a project

company and investors will hold shares via a private placement. It has already attracted interest from private and institutional investors, including sovereign funds.

Iran is heavily reliant on natural gas and oil to generate power, but air pollution is driving interest in renewables and Iran has made a commitment to develop 5 GW of new renewable energy capacity by 2020.

Iran's installed solar energy capacity is currently 53 MW, according to Iranian energy ministry data, but 76 firms have signed deals to study building an extra 932 MW of capacity. Interest has grown since the lifting of international sanctions on Iran in 2016.

"The market is becoming more active on the permit side but on the construction side it hasn't opened up yet. After this project we think there will be increasing interest from foreign investors," Biasi said, adding interest was already quite strong.

The project will benefit from bilateral investment treaties that ensure foreign investors are treated the same as local ones. Biasi said there was also a guarantee in the contract with the Ministry of Energy that the electricity would be paid for.

As Quercus has appointed a local partner, Sunir, to help build the plant in conjunction with Spanish firm Bester, it may also benefit from a 15% uplift in the feed-in tariff, Biasi said. Under Iran's renewables regime, the feed-in tariff may be increased by up to 30% if local equipment and components are used.

## Rouhani ...

(Continued From Page One)

In 2010, the company withdrew completely, following the Japanese government's decision to impose additional sanctions on Iran. But it was one of five companies to sign an agreement with NIOC to carry out studies at the South Azadegan field last June.

The Azadegan tender is Iran's first bidding round for a major oil field. It previously relied on bilateral negotiations to award development contracts. It is also the first under Iran's much delayed new contract model, the Iran Petroleum Contract, which is yet to be published. This replaces the old buyback contract.

Azadegan currently produces around 125,000 b/d of crude -- 75,000 b/d from the northern portion and 50,000 b/d from the south. NIOC plans to raise the production to 150,000 b/d in the north and as much as 600,000 b/d in two phases from South Azadegan.

## IRGC ...

(Continued From Page 2)

During the Sacred Defense Week, different units representing the Army, the IRGC, the Law Enforcement (police), and the Defense Ministry take part in the parades in Tehran and other provincial capitals.

The most recent achievements of the Iranian armed forces in the missile industry, equipment for the ground, naval and air defense forces are put on display in the parades.

In Iran, the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war is known as the Sacred Defense, and the Sacred Defense Week is held on the anniversary of the beginning of the war.

It begins on Shahrivar 31 in the Iranian calendar (September 22 this year), which is the day Iraq invaded Iran and began the imposed war on the country in 1980.

## Second ...

(Continued From Page 2)

Tasviehchi said 100 tonnes of aid, including blankets, tents, canned food, medicine and other necessary good, is currently awaiting dispatch for the refugees.

Iran sent its first humanitarian relief aid, including food and medicine, for the Rohingya last Friday.

An official said the aid was sent thanks to the coordination of the Iranian embassy in Dhaka after the Myanmar regime refused to allow the shipment.