

# Suicide Rate in Zionist Regime Army Increasing



*Zionist troops fire tear gas at Palestinian protesters during clashes in the West Bank city of al-Khalil on October 6, 2017.*

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A new report says eight troops have taken their own lives in the Zionist regime’s army over the past almost three months, raising concerns

about the growing number of suicides within the ranks of the regime’s military. Israel’s 0404 news website reported that a trooper at the Hatzor military base

had fired a bullet at her head on Tuesday. The incident brings to eight the total number of troopers who have committed suicide over the past almost three months, according to the report. Back in January, a senior official in the regime’s military’s manpower directorate said suicide was the main cause of deaths among the army soldiers in 2016, adding that 15 troopers— all of them male — had killed themselves in that year. “Most of the fallen soldiers who committed suicide last year (2016) were soldiers in their mandatory service, and the act was during their service and not during their training,” she said. The Zionist regime’s army was conducting a program to reduce the number of suicides with commanders requested to identify warning signs in those under their command, she pointed out. The 2016 suicide figure in the military remained unchanged compared to its previous year, but more than doubled the low of seven recorded in 2013.

## Iraqi Court Issues Arrest Warrants for Kurdish Referendum Organizers

BAGHDAD (Xinhua) – An Iraqi court on Wednesday issued arrest warrants for the Kurdish organizers of the secession referendum on the Kurdistan region on Sept. 25. “The Court of Inquiry for Risafa (eastern Baghdad) issued arrest warrants for the chairman and members of the electoral commission supervising the referendum in the Kurdistan region,” Abdul Sattar al-Biraqdar, spokesman for Iraq’s Supreme Judicial Council, said in a statement. The court order was based on a request from

the National Security Council, headed by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi who made the complaint against the electoral commission. On Sept. 18, the Iraqi Federal Court issued a verdict to stop the independence referendum in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, just a week before the referendum. But on Sept. 25, the Iraqi Kurds defied the order by holding as scheduled a referendum on the secession of their region. The Iraqi central government rejected the referendum as unconstitutional.

On Tuesday, Abadi reaffirmed Baghdad’s stance “not to discuss the referendum with anyone or negotiate before it is cancelled.” “We cannot stand with arms folded in front of attempts to break up the country’s unity. Any dialogue should be based on Iraq’s unity, the constitution and the rejection of the referendum,” Abadi said. The referendum was opposed by many countries because it would threaten the integrity of Iraq and undermine fight against Daesh terrorists.

## Turkey Hopes U.S. Will Lift Decision on Visa Embargo

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey hopes the United States will lift its decision on suspending visa services soon, the spokesman for the ruling AK Party said on Wednesday. Speaking at an interview with broadcaster A Haber, Mahir Unal said Ankara hopes the escalating dispute between the NATO allies will not impact military operations. Turkey was holding talks at the foreign ministry level to resolve the U.S. visa crisis, he also said.

The row broke out last week after a U.S. consulate employee was arrested in Istanbul. The U.S. and Turkey have suspended all non-immigrant visa services for travel between the two countries. Turkey has also been involved in diplomatic brawls with some European countries, mainly over Ankara’s human rights records. The EU is now considering suspension of the process of Turkey’s accession to the bloc. Over 100 journalists have been jailed in Turkey and nearly 200 media outlets were shut down since a coup attempt against the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on July 15, 2016. The Turkish government accuses the U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen of having orchestrated the attempted coup. Gulen, a former Erdogan ally turned arch-foe, has denied the allegation. Turkey has called on the U.S. to extradite Gulen, but the demand has not been taken heed of.



*The Turkish Embassy in Washington*

Turkey, which remains in a state of emergency since the coup, has been engaged in suppressing the media and opposition groups suspected to have played a role in the failed coup. On Tuesday, Turkish police reportedly launched an operation across seven provinces to arrest 70 military personnel over their alleged links to Gulen.

## Yemen Islamic Party Members Arrested, Ratcheting Up Tensions

ADEN (Dispatches) – Security forces in the southern Yemeni city of Aden arrested 10 members of an Islamic party, the Islah party said on Wednesday. Aden is dominated by local forces backed by the United Arab Emirates, a key member of the Saudi-led coalition that intervened in Yemen’s civil war in 2015 to restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power but is hostile toward the Islamic side. The arrests could raise tension within the coalition fighting the Houthi movement and

forces loyal to ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh who seized much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, and drove Hadi into exile. Islah said security forces raided the home of its number two man in Aden, Mohammed Abdel-Malek, and arrested him, along with a member of the party’s local Shura Council as well as a local commander. Security forces also closed down the party’s office in the al-Qaloua district of Aden, Islah said in a statement.

A security source in Aden confirmed four people were arrested and claimed the move was related to the assassination of a Salafist imam in Aden on Tuesday by a bomb planted in his car. The Saudi aggression has killed more than 12,000 people since March 2015. Saudi Arabia has also imposed an all-out blockade against Yemen. Riyadh has turned a deaf ear to all international warnings against the dramatic humanitarian situation in the impoverished country.

## Turkey Sentences Reporter to 2 Years in Prison

ANKARA (Dispatches) – American daily Wall Street Journal (WSJ) says Turkey has sentenced one of its reporters to two years in prison on charges of engaging in terrorist propaganda. The newspaper said Ayla Albayrak, a Finnish-Turkish citizen, was convicted of terrorist propaganda for writing an article about a conflict between Kurdish militants and the Turkish government in the country’s southeastern areas in 2015. Albayrak plans to appeal against her conviction, the WSJ said. The reporter argued that the article accurately reflected the status of the conflict. 2015 saw the collapse of a ceasefire deal between Ankara and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militant group, which has been fighting for autonomy for decades. Ankara, the U.S. and the European Union, consider the PKK a terrorist group.

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the nations of the world and global public opinion,” he added. Other parties to the deal - Britain, France, Germany, China, Russia and the European Union - have all voiced staunch support for it, saying Iran has stuck to its commitments. The nuclear deal “is a test for all governments,” Rouhani said. “Whenever we have committed ourselves, we have stood by our commitments to the end. This is an honor for us.”

### May: UK Committed to Iran Deal

Prime Minister Theresa May on Tuesday reaffirmed Britain’s commitment to the Iran nuclear deal in a telephone conversation with Trump. “The (prime minister) reaffirmed the UK’s strong commitment to the deal alongside our European partners, saying it was vitally important for regional security,” said a statement from May’s office following the call on Tuesday evening. “(The prime minister) stressed that it was important that the deal was carefully monitored and properly enforced.” In a separate statement, Britain’s Foreign Office said Iran had upheld its nuclear commitments, adding to international pressure on Trump not to jeopardize security in the region. The nuclear agreement “was the culmination of 13 years of painstaking diplomacy and has increased security, both in the region and in the UK. It is these security implications that we continue to encourage the U.S. to consider,” Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said. Johnson spoke by telephone with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Foreign Minister Zarif on Tuesday and was on Wednesday to meet the head of Iran’s nuclear agency Ali Akbar Salehi in London. The White House said Trump would make an announcement later this week on an “overall Iran strategy,” including whether to “decertify” the nuclear deal.

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Donald Trump’s policies against Iran and added that the Chinese, Russian and European companies were still committed to investing in Iran. Trump is expected to “decertify” this week a multilateral 2015 deal Iran struck with world powers that brought sanctions relief to Iran. Remaining U.S. sanctions on Iran make it difficult to do business with the country. Governors from the Central Bank of Iran met in July with representatives from the International Monetary Fund to discuss lingering capital issues. Speaking Wednesday, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said his government is frustrated by Iran’s role in the region, but supported the nuclear agreement nonetheless. “The nuclear deal was a crucial agreement that neutralized Iran’s nuclear threat,” he said in a statement. At an energy event Tuesday, Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh said Iran will launch a \$5 billion oilfield investment package within the next two years aimed at maintaining and enhancing its crude oil production. Crude oil production capacity is planned to rise by nearly 1 million barrels a day to about 4.7 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2021 from the present 3.8 million barrels a day. Zangeneh said his ministry hopes to make a decision on how to develop all oil and gas fields by the middle of 2021, the end of his second consecutive tenure as oil minister under President Rouhani’s administration.