

Blast Kills 3 Peshmerga Fighters in Iraq's Kirkuk

KIRKUK (Dispatches) – At least three Kurdish Peshmerga fighters have been killed in a bomb blast in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk. At least five fighters were also injured as the explosive devices went off near their car in Daquq which resides close to an area still held by the Daesh terrorist group. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, but it comes as the Kurdistan Regional Government is getting ready for an independence referendum. Critics say partitioning Iraq could be the last thing the country, scarred by years of violence, needs.

Thought for Today

Whenever a tradition of the Holy Prophet is related to you, scrutinize it, do not be satisfied with mere verbatim repetition of the same because there are many people who repeat the words containing knowledge but only few ponder over them and try to fully grasp the meaning they convey.

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Saudis Exporting 'Extremely Radical' Wahhabism Worldwide



A handout picture provided by the Saudi Royal Palace on August 23, 2017 shows Saudi King Salman (R) being welcomed by his son Deputy Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman (L) at Jeddah airport upon his return from holiday in Morocco.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Vermont Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders has asserted that the U.S.' friendly ties with Saudi Arabia is wrong, blaming Riyadh for promoting "extremely radical Wahhabi doctrine" worldwide.

In his interview with The Intercept published, the former presidential candidate also stated that he does not consider Riyadh an ally because it supports terrorism.

"It is not just that many of the 9/11 bombers came from Saudi Arabia," he said. "What I think is more significant is their ... continuing to fund madrasas and to spread an extremely radical Wahhabi doctrine in many countries around the world. And they are funding these mosques, they're funding the madrasas, and they are fomenting a lot of hatred."

Sanders also noted the United

States is "complicit" in the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestinian territories.

The Jewish member of the United States Congress calls himself a "strong defender of Israel" and remains an opponent of the worldwide Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions anti-Israeli movement.

"Certainly the United States is complicit, but it's not to say ... that Israel is the only party at fault," he

said.

Yet, he condemned Washington's unfair approach to the Zionist-Palestinian conflict.

"In terms of Israeli-Palestinian relations, the United States has got to play a much more evenhanded role. Clearly that is not the case right now," Sanders said.

The senator also responded "yes" when asked if the U.S. should reduce its aid to Tel Aviv worth at least \$3 billion per annum, or U.S. arms sales to the occupying regime's military, further asserting that Washington should help Palestinians build areas such as the war-ravaged Gaza Strip.

"The U.S. funding plays a very important role, and I would love to see people in the Middle East sit down with the United States government and figure out how U.S. aid can bring people together, not just result in an arms war in that area. So I think there is extraordinary potential for the United States to help the Palestinian people rebuild Gaza and other areas. At the same time, demand that Israel, in their own interests in a way, work with other countries on environmental issues," he said.

Trump has voiced strong support for Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while turning a blind eye to the Tel Aviv regime's undermining of the so-called peace process.

U.S.-Backed Groups Form Council to Run Dayr al-Zawr



Syrian government forces man a checkpoint in the eastern Syrian city of Dayr al-Zawr on September 21, 2017 as Syrian government forces continue to press forward in the offensive against Daesh terrorists.

DAYR AL-ZAWR (Dispatches) – The so-called Syrian Democratic Forces, groups in northern Syria have announced the formation of a civilian council to govern the oil rich eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr where they are racing with the Syrian army to capture territory held by Daesh.

The U.S.-backed SDF, which includes militants but is dominated by the powerful Kurdish YPG militia, launched an operation in the Dayr al-Zawr province which borders Iraq earlier this month which captured its northern countryside and advanced east of the Euphrates River.

On Saturday they seized a major gas field in Dayr al-Zawr province from Daesh terrorists in rapid advances that preempted the Syrian government that was also heading in that direction.

In a separate offensive, Syrian army backed by Russian

air power had also this month broke a years-long Daesh siege of government-held parts of Dayr al-Zawr on the other side of the Euphrates river.

The advances against Daesh have brought U.S.-backed forces and the Syrian government side, backed by Russia and Iran, into close proximity.

The assaults by the Russian-backed Syrian army and the U.S.-backed SDF have at times raised fears of clashes that could stoke tensions between the competing world powers.

The SDF appointed one hundred tribal figures to meet and elect a council to run the province on Sunday.

In a final communiqué the council said its priority was the return of tens of thousands of displaced residents of the province who fled during the conflict and restoring basic utilities. It urged the U.S.-led coalition to provide aid to the war-torn province.

Al-Arabiya:

Yemen's Hadi Sees Only Military Solution to Crisis

DUBAI (Dispatches) – A solution in Yemen's two and-a-half year-old war will likely come through military rather than political means, the country's Saudi-backed president said.

Speaking in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi also told the Saudi-owned al-Arabiya channel that a plan to hand over control of the country's main port to a neutral party remained blocked by the Houthi fighters and their ally, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"The military solution is the more likely one for the Yemen crisis in light of the intransigence of the Houthi and Saleh coup militias," Hadi said in

the interview, according to a text provided by the Yemeni state-run Saba news agency.

"Despite that, the legitimate government continues to extend its hand for peace because it is responsible for the Yemeni people and for lifting the suffering from it," he added.

In September 2014, the Ansarullah fighters took state matters in their hands in Sana'a amid the absence of an efficient government there.

Before gaining control of the capital, the Houthis had set a deadline for the political parties to put aside differences and fill the power vacuum, but the deadline was missed without any change in the impoverished country's political scene.

However, the former Saudi-backed president, Abd Rabuh Mansur Hadi, later stepped down, refusing a call by the Houthi movement to reconsider the move.

Hadi then fled to Saudi Arabia, which launched a military campaign against Yemen along with a number of its allies in March 2015 to reinstall Hadi and crush the Houthi movement.

More than 12,000 people have been killed since the onset of the Saudi military 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.

Taliban Target NATO Convoy in Afghanistan

KABUL (Dispatches) – Taliban militants have targeted a military convoy of Danish NATO forces in the Afghan capital of Kabul. There have been no reports of casualties among the foreign forces but at least three civilians have sustained injuries.

Afghan officials said the incident took place early on Sunday when a bomber attacked a NATO convoy in the fifth district of Kabul.

"Around 11:02 am, a suicide car bomber detonated himself, targeted a convoy of foreign forces near Afshar neighborhood of Kabul city," Najib Danish, the interior ministry spokesman, told AFP. "Unfortunately as a result of the attack, three Afghan civilians were wounded."

The Afghan Tolo News television channel and Reuters, however, put the number of civilian casualties at



An Afghan policeman keeps watch at the site of a car bomb attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, September 24, 2017.

five.

Captain William Salvin, a spokesman for the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, confirmed the attack

on the military convoy and said that there had been no victims among the servicemen.

In a message posted on Twitter, the

Taliban claimed to have killed and injured up to 16 American soldiers in Sunday's bomb attack.

More than 16 years after a U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan, security remains fragile. The U.S.-led forces transferred security responsibilities to Afghan forces in 2014, although some 13,000 NATO soldiers, most of them from the U.S., are still stationed in Afghanistan.

U.S. President Donald Trump has allowed the deployment of another 4,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan and has repeatedly urged other NATO members to contribute more.

The Taliban, which ruled the country before the 2001 invasion, are reportedly overrunning territory in the south and north. The terrorist group Daesh has also recently emerged in Afghanistan.

Algeria: Syria Must Return to Arab League

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Algeria has urged Syria's return to the Arab League, and asked Arab states involved in a diplomatic crisis between Saudi Arabia and Qatar to work towards mending their ties.

Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel made the remarks to Russia Today Arabic.

The Arab League suspended Syria's membership in November 2011, citing alleged crackdown by Damascus on opposition protests. Syria has denounced the move as "illegal and a violation of the organization's charter."

Messahel stressed the need for resolution of all differences in the region, including the diplomatic crisis involving Qatar on one side, and a Saudi-led bloc on the other.

The widening rift in the region erupted on June 5, when Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt severed ties

with Qatar.

They then imposed a blockade on the emirate, and presented it with a 13-point list of demands before they would restore ties. The demands include Qatar's limiting its ties with Iran, and closing down a Turkish military base, which Doha has rejected as intervention in its affairs.

The Algerian foreign minister, meanwhile, asserted that his country's ties Iran do not conflict with its relations with Arab countries.

Saudi Arabia cut its ties with Iran in January last year after angry protests in front of its Iran-based diplomatic missions against its earlier execution of a leading Shia cleric. Bahrain followed suit, and the UAE downgraded its Iran relations.

The three countries have, ever since, had on numerous occasions accused the Islamic Republic of meddling in the region.