

Daesh Bombing Leaves Nearly Dozen Dead in Yemen's Aden

SANAA (Dispatches) – Nearly a dozen people have lost their lives when a bomber blew up his explosives-laden vehicle near forces loyal to the Saudi-backed former Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in the southern port city of Aden.

“Eight members of the security forces and two civilians were killed in a car bombing in the central district of Abdul Aziz.

“There are a large number of wounded, some of them in serious condition,” Aden’s Security Director Brigadier General Shalal Shaya said.

Witnesses said they heard a loud explosion followed by gunfire at the main office of United Arab Emirates-trained security forces.

The Daesh terrorist group later claimed responsibility for the deadly attack.

The development came more than a week after Daesh claimed a major attack in Aden that killed 35 people.

Witnesses said a car bomb was detonated outside the main security headquarters in the city’s Khor Maksar district on November 5. Clashes erupted in the area immediately afterward.

Daesh and the al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have taken advantage of the chaos and breakdown of security in Yemen to tighten their grip on the southern and southeastern



People gather at the site of a car bomb attack outside a police forces camp in Aden, Yemen, on November 14, 2017.

parts of the Arab country.

Saudi Arabia has been incessantly pounding Yemen since March 2015 in an attempt to crush the popular Houthis Ansarullah movement and reinstate former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is a staunch ally of the Riyadh regime.

The UAE is one of the main allies of Riyadh in its deadly war against the

Yemeni nation. The United States has also been providing arms and military training as well as bombing coordinates to the Saudi-led coalition since the beginning of the protracted war, which has failed to achieve its goals.

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-led war has also triggered a deadly cholera epidemic across Yemen.

According to the World Health Organization’s latest count, the cholera outbreak has killed 2,167 people since the end of April and is suspected to have infected 841,906.

Iran ...

(Continued From Page One)

The mayor of Ezgeleh, a city in Kermanshah, said 80% of its buildings had collapsed. Survivors desperately needed tents with elderly people and babies as young as one-year-old sleeping in the cold for two straight nights.

In an interview with state television, Nazar Barani asked people to send fuel, milk, water and food as emergency services were too slow and providing limited provisions.

“People are hungry and thirsty,” a local man told ISNA news agency. “There is no electricity. Last night I cried when I saw children with no food or shelter.”

Photographs posted on Iranian news websites showed rescue workers digging people out of collapsed buildings, cars smashed beneath rubble and rescue dogs trying to find signs of life under the twisted ruins.

Iran is crisscrossed by major fault lines and has suffered several devastating earthquakes in recent years, including a 6.6 magnitude quake in 2003 that reduced the historic southeastern city of Bam to dust and killed some 31,000 people.

Kermanshah, an almost entirely Kurdish province nestled in the Zagros Mountains that run along the border with Iraq, suffered all of Iran’s fatalities from the temblor Sunday night that shook 14 of the country’s 31 provinces.

The hospital in Sarpol-e-Zahab was heavily damaged, and the army set up field hospitals, although many of the injured were moved to other cities, including Tehran.

The quake also damaged an army garrison and buildings in the border city and killed an unspecified number of soldiers, according to reports.

There are fears more dead could be in the rubble in Sarpol-e-Zahab and other rural villages of Kermanshah province. Muhammad Ali Monshizadeh, a spokesman for the provincial forensic department, said possibly as many as 150 people were buried by family members after the earthquake in remote villages who had not been counted in the official death toll.

Iran’s Red Crescent also said it worried about more bodies in rural villages.

Cleric Abdolhussein Moezi, a representative of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who also is touring the area, said there was a need for more relief material and “security.”

President Hassan Rouhani arrived in Kermanshah province on Tuesday to see the damage for himself and offer his support to those affected.

“This was a pain for all Iranians,” Rouhani said, according to a statement on the presidency’s website. “Representing the nation of Iran, I offer my condolences to the people of Kermanshah, and tell them that all of us are behind Kermanshah.”

Iran’s Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif offered his thanks to foreign countries offering to help but wrote on Twitter: “For now, we are able to manage with our own resources.”

The quake was centered about 19 miles (31 kilometers) outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and struck 14.4 miles (23.2 kilometers) below the surface, a somewhat shallow depth that can cause broader damage. The quake caused Dubai’s skyscrapers to sway and could be felt 1,060 kilometers (660 miles) away on the Mediterranean coast.

Seven deaths occurred in Iraq and 535 people were injured, all in the country’s northern, semiautonomous Kurdish region, according to its Interior Ministry.

Sarpol-e-Zahab fell to the troops of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his 1980 invasion of Iran, which sparked the eight-year war between the two countries. Though clawed back by Iran seven months later, the area remained a war zone that suffered through Saddam’s missile attacks and chemical weapons.

After the war, Iran began rebuilding the town. Rouhani said the government would launch an investigation into why the buildings so easily toppled.

“The faults and shortcomings in the construction of these buildings should be investigated,” he said, according to IRNA. The “government will definitely follow up on these issues and identify the culprits.”

IAEA ...

(Continued From Page 2)

The envoy went on, the 28-member bloc has urged that Washington take into account the consequences of its measures for the security of itself, its allies and the region.

The three European parties to the JCPOA have encouraged the U.S. government and Congress to think twice before taking steps that could undermine the nuclear deal, Klor-Berchold added.

As regards the economic relations between Iran and Germany, the ambassador said the value of bilateral trade exchange is expected to reach 3 billion euros this year, saying it would experience a 20 percent annual rise.

His comments came after the foreign ministers of Germany, Britain and France emphasized the necessity for saving the JCPOA in a Monday meeting in Brussels.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said later in the EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) meeting that Berlin needs to work in close cooperation with its allies regarding Iran nuclear deal.

The EU has been at odds with U.S. President Donald Trump who has repeatedly described the JCPOA as a disaster and accused Iran of violating the deal.

The EU, Iran, Russia and China maintain that the JCPOA is a multilateral and non-renegotiable pact that could not be scrapped unilaterally.

ATR ...

(Continued From Page 2)

The announcement was made by ATR Chief Executive Officer Christian Scherer who said the deliveries would be made under export licenses issued by the US Treasury Department following the lifting of international nuclear-related sanctions against Iran in 2016.

Scherer further emphasized that the company, which is jointly owned by Airbus and Italian aerospace group Leonardo, had recorded a higher number of international deliveries for 2017 compared to last year, emphasizing that figures showed an increase of 50 percent.

ATR, which competes with Canada’s Bombardier, has seen a marked recovery in orders this year after they dropped by more than half to 36 in 2016, their lowest level in seven years, Reuters reported.

In early 2017, the company signed an agreement with Iran to sell 20 turboprop planes to the country’s national flag-carrier airline Iran Air.

Iran Air took delivery of the first four ATR aircraft in May and two more in late September.

The planes can carry 70 passengers and would be used in flights over a maximum distance of 1,528 kilometers.

They are projected to be used among regional cities as part of a commercial plan, covering a populous crescent straddling Iran’s northwest and northeast.

Iran’s aviation officials had already said the ATR fleet may be based in the Caspian city of Rasht to connect small towns to big cities such as Tabriz and Mashhad in Iran and the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

Qatar:

Saudi-Led Bloc Not Interested in Resolving Diplomatic Crisis

DOHA (Press TV) – The Qatari emir says the Saudi-led bloc of countries that have brought his country under a full-scale embargo is not interested in finding a solution to the Persian Gulf diplomatic crisis, stressing that Doha is open to “dialog based on mutual respect.”

“We express our readiness for a compromise within the framework of a dialogue based on mutual respect for sovereignty and common obligations,” Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani told members of Qatar’s consultative Shoura Council.

Sheikh Tamim, added, however, that “we recognize the indicators that come from the blockade states show they do

not want to reach a solution.”

Back in June, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) imposed a trade and diplomatic embargo on Qatar, accusing Doha of supporting terrorism, an allegation strongly denied by the emirate.

The Saudi-led bloc presented Qatar with a list of demands, among them downgrading ties with Iran, and gave it an ultimatum to comply with them or face consequences. Doha, however, refused to meet the demands and said that they were meant to force the country to surrender its sovereignty.

The Qatari monarch said, “Foreign countries repeatedly asked the

blockaders about the reason behind their claims, but they could not give them anything.”

Qatar ‘not afraid’

The Qatar monarch further emphasized the country’s determination to stand against pressure, adding, “We are not afraid of the siege. We do not need the countries laying it.”

He thanked the Qatari people for resisting the “ruthless” blockade, saying the people were capable and aware enough to stand on their own feet.

Tamim also accused the foursome of trying to prevent his country from hosting World Cup in 2022, as the emirate has been chosen to do.

“The blockading countries have sought to deprive Qatar of [the right to] host the World Cup by exercising pressure and circulating lies,” he said.

Earlier this month, the Intercept, a US-based investigative website, reported that documents found in an e-mail account belonging to Yousef al-Otaiba, the UAE’s envoy to the US, has exposed a plot by Abu Dhabi to wage an economic war on Qatar.

After Qatar was brought to its knees, the UAE would start a propaganda campaign to portray Doha as incapable of hosting the World Cup, the report said.

Erdogan in Kuwait

High-Profile PKK Militant Killed in Turkey’s Sirnak

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish security forces have killed a senior member of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militant group during an anti-terrorism operation in the country’s southeastern province of Sirnak.

Turkey’s Interior Minister, in a statement released on Tuesday, announced that Hülya Eroğlu, better known by the nom de guerre Gülbahar,

was killed during an offensive in the Bestler-Derele district of the province, situated some 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) east of the capital Ankara.

The statement added that she was a member of the so-called PKK executive committee, and on the red category of the terror blacklist.

The ministry further noted that 30 other PKK terrorists were also been killed in

the counter-terrorism operation, which had been going on since November 2.

Ankara has been engaged in a large-scale campaign against the PKK in its southern border region. The Turkish military has also been conducting offensives against the positions of the group in northern Iraq.

The operations began in the wake of a deadly bombing in the southern Turkish

town of Suruc. More than 30 people died in the attack, which the Turkish government blamed on the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group.

After the bombing, the PKK militants, who accused the government in Ankara of supporting Daesh, engaged in a series of attacks against Turkish police and security forces, prompting the Turkish military operations.

Paper:

Saudis Made Plans for Ties With Zionist Regime

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – A Lebanese paper closely aligned with the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah on Tuesday published a “secret document” that purports to show the Saudis are willing to normalize relations with the Zionist regime as part of a U.S.-led so-called Zionist-Palestinian peace effort and unite the region against Iran.

The alleged document, published by the Al Akhbar daily, is a letter from the Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir to the crown prince, Mohammed Bin Salman, explaining why it’s in the kingdom’s interest to normalize relations with the Zionist regime. The letter has no date.

“I have the honor to submit to you the

draft of the plan to establish relations between the kingdom and the State of Israel, based on the strategic partnership agreement with the United States of America, which was discussed with the secretary of state of the United States of America,” the alleged letter from the foreign minister to the crown prince opens.

In May, after a visit from U.S. President Donald Trump to Saudi Arabia, the two sides agreed to form a new strategic partnership, the White House said.

The letter goes on to say that a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime has risks for the kingdom due to the strength of the Palestinian cause among Muslims.

While normalization will at first be rejected by Arabs, the alleged letter argues, Zionist “technological and economic prowess” will help usher in a more prosperous era for the region.

“The kingdom will not take this risk unless it felt the United States has taken a sincere approach to Iran, which is destabilizing the region by sponsoring terrorism,” the letter said.

The letter adds that Saudi Arabia would normalize relations with the regime under two conditions. First, either the kingdom builds up nuclear weapons similar to the Zionist regime’s alleged nuclear arsenal, or the regime gives up its alleged nukes.

Second, the letter said, the Saudis, with

the help of the U.S., would solve the Palestinian issue, including the two most difficult final status issues, the fate of al-Quds and Palestinian refugees.

Regarding al-Quds, which the occupying regime sees as its capital while the Palestinians claim East al-Quds for a future state, the Saudis propose the ancient city be put under international control and be administered by the United Nations.

As for the Palestinian refugee issue, the letter said the Saudis would be willing to help the estimated five million Palestinian refugees worldwide to settle in their host countries, rather than bringing them back to the occupied territories.