

Terrorist Attack Hits Syria's Latakia

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – At least one civilian has been injured by a mortar fired by terrorists on the Knainas neighborhood of Syria's Latakia, the Syria TV reported Wednesday.

The attack also caused material damage, the local media said.

This is not the first time when terrorists target Latakia this month. The attack comes after on 3 March the Syrian military forces repelled a massive terrorist attack aiming at their positions in the western province of Latakia.

One who takes lessons from the events of life, gets vision, one who acquires vision becomes wise and one who attains wisdom achieves knowledge.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

White House Opposes Saudi Yemen War Powers Resolution

'Daesh Bombers Thwarted in Last-Stand Battle in Syria'



Yemeni children raise pictures during a demonstration in the capital, Sana'a, on August 12, 2018, against a deadly Saudi airstrike on a school bus in Sa'ada.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – White House advisers recommended on Wednesday that U.S. President Donald Trump veto a resolution to end Washington's support for the Saudi Arabia-led military campaign in Yemen.

The White House statement of administration policy came as the

U.S. Senate prepared to vote on the matter, one of several efforts by lawmakers to push Trump to toughen his policy toward the kingdom.

Backers of the resolution, who include some of Trump's fellow Republicans as well as Democrats, said they are optimistic about its

chances of passing the Senate.

However, the Senate's Republican majority leader, Mitch McConnell, denounced the war powers resolution on Wednesday as he opened the Senate, calling it "inappropriate and counterproductive."

The White House warned last year that Trump would veto the

resolution even if the measure passed the Democratic-controlled House.

The brutal murder of Khashoggi in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul has served as a boost to the lawmakers' resolve to take on the Saudi royal family, which has a very close connection with Trump.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating military campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the aim of bringing the former Saudi-sponsored government back to power.

According to a new report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, the Saudi-led war has so far claimed the lives of around 56,000 Yemenis.

The Saudi-led war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The UN has already said that a record 22.2 million Yemenis are in dire need of food, including 8.4 million threatened by severe hunger.

The US along with some Western countries are complicit in the ongoing aggression as they supply the Riyadh regime with advanced weapons and military equipment as well as logistical and intelligence assistance.



Civilians evacuated from the Daesh terrorist group's embattled holdout of Baghouz wait at a screening area held by the Kurdish-led so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), in the eastern Syrian province of Dayr al-Zawr, on February 27, 2019.

DAYR AL-ZAWR (Dispatches) – The so-called Syrian Democratic Forces said it thwarted an attempted bomb attack by Daesh early on Wednesday during a last-stand battle for the terrorist group's final enclave.

The SDF said the battle for Baghouz, a collection of hamlets and farmland near the Iraqi border, was as good as over.

The enclave is the last shred of populated territory held by the terrorists who have been driven from roughly one third of Iraq and Syria over the past four years.

Mustafa Bali, a spokesman for the SDF media office, said its forces had been bombarding Baghouz heavily overnight before engaging in direct clashes with Daesh terrorists from 4-6 am (0200-0400 GMT).

Live footage broadcast by the Kurdish Ronahi TV overnight showed a series of large explosions lighting up the night sky

over Baghouz.

"There were suicide vest attacks by a group of bombers who tried to blow themselves up amidst our forces. Our forces targeted and killed them before they reached our positions," Bali said.

The SDF has laid siege to Baghouz for weeks but had repeatedly postponed its final assault to allow thousands of civilians, many of them wives and children of Daesh terrorists, to leave. It resumed the attack on Sunday.

Around 3,000 terrorists and their families surrendered to SDF forces in 24 hours, Bali said overnight. Three women and four children belonging to the Izadi sect, a minority group who were kidnapped and enslaved by Daesh in 2014, were also freed, he said.

While Baghouz is the last populated territory of what was once the group's self-proclaimed "caliphate", terrorists still operate in remote areas elsewhere.

Syria Slams U.S. Bid to Recognize Golan as Israeli-Occupied Territory

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian government has lashed out at Senator Lindsey Graham, who said that the Golan Heights should remain part of the Israeli-occupied territories while taking a tour of the disputed region with Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. ambassador to the occupied territories David Friedman.

"These statements [by Senator Lindsay Graham] show the arrogant mentality of the U.S. administration, and that it views regional issues with Zionist eyes in a way which serves Israeli interests", SANA quoted an unnamed official in the Syrian Foreign Ministry as saying.

The official went on to say that

Graham's remarks showed his ignorance of history and geography, as well as demonstrated Washington's disregard for international law.

"All United Nations resolutions – particularly Security Council Resolution 497, adopted unanimously on 17 December 1981, affirm the legal status of the Syrian Golan as occupied territory, and declares Israel's annexation of it as null and void", the insider added.

Last month, Republican Senators Ted Cruz and Tom Cotton along with Rep. Mike Gallagher introduced a resolution to "ensure that Israel retains control of the Golan Heights".

The Zionist regime seized the

Golan Heights from Syria after the 1967 Six-Day War and later occupied it in a move that has never been recognized by the international community. The regime has built dozens of settlements in the area ever since and has used the region to carry out a number of military operations against the Syrian government.

In December 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring the Zionist regime's decision to extend its legislation on the Golan Heights as null and void, and urging the occupying regime to withdraw from the territory.

During the past few years, the Zionist regime has frequently attacked military targets in Syria in

what is considered as an attempt to prop up terrorist groups that have been suffering heavy defeats against Syrian government forces.

Back in April 2015, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu officially admitted for the first time that the regime's military had conducted strikes in Syrian territory.

Damascus says the Zionist regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding terrorist groups operating inside the Arab country, while the Tel Aviv regime's military carries out such sporadic strikes against Syrian government forces. The occupying regime has even set up field hospitals to treat wounded militants evacuated from Syria.

Saudi Women's Rights Activists Stand Trial in Criminal Court

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Several Saudi Arabian women rights activists stood trial on Wednesday for the first time since a group of them were detained last year in a case that has invited scrutiny of Riyadh's human rights record after the murder of a prominent journalist.

Loujain al-Hathloul, Aziza al-Yousef, Eman al-Nafjan and Hatoon Al-Fassi are among around 10 women appearing before the Criminal Court in the capital, Riyadh, where charges will be presented against them, court president Ibrahim al Sayari said.

He was speaking to reporters and diplomats, who were barred from attending the session.

The women are among about a dozen prominent activists who were arrested last May in the weeks before a ban on women driving cars in the conservative

kingdom was lifted.

At the time of the arrests, the public prosecutor said five men and four women were being held on suspicion of harming the country's interests and offering support to hostile elements abroad. State-backed media labeled them as traitors and "agents of embassies", unnerving foreign diplomats in the key U.S. ally.

Hathloul's brother tweeted late on Tuesday that the family had been informed that the trial had been moved to the criminal court from the Specialized Criminal Court, which was set up to try terrorism cases but is often used for political offences. It was not clear what was behind the decision.

Three dozen countries, including all 28 EU members, called on Riyadh last week to release the activists.

Activists say some of them, including Hathloul, were held in solitary confinement and subjected to mistreatment and torture, including electric shocks, flogging and sexual assault. Saudi officials have denied those allegations.

Hathloul, who had advocated an end to the driving ban and the kingdom's male guardianship system, was previously detained twice, including for 73 days in 2014 after she attempted to drive into Saudi Arabia from the United Arab Emirates.

Nafjan and Yousef participated in a protest against the driving ban in 2013. Yousef also authored a petition, which Nafjan and Hathloul signed, in 2016 seeking to end male guardianship, which requires women to obtain the consent of a male relative for major decisions.

Netanyahu Hints Zionist Regime Has Secret Relations With 6 Arab States

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed that occupying regime has developed ties with 6 states in the region despite their animosity towards the regime over the past decades.

"We are doing this with large parts of the Arab and Muslim world through an accelerated process of normalization [...] These days Israel is making contact with half a dozen important Arab and Muslim nations, which were, until recently, hostile to Israel", he said, speaking at a memorial ceremony for former Zionist prime minister Levi Eshkol.

The Zionist prime minister further stated that neighboring states will only achieve peace with the regime after it convinces them "that our power and presence here are certain facts". However, he admitted that not all countries will go along with this.

"We are advancing that process of recognition and agreement

with the rest of our neighbors, not all of them, but with most of them", Netanyahu said.

His statements come amid a recent scandal involving the prime minister refusing to call the occupied territories "a country for all its citizens", noting that under the law it is what he called a "Jewish nation-state".

Apart from Egypt and Jordan, most Arab and Muslim states in the region do not recognize the occupying regime and deny it the right to exist. However, various media reports suggest Tel Aviv is holding non-official talks with many of these states. Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also previously revealed that the regime had had "contacts" with Saudi Arabia, which he said "have been kept in general secret".

The regime's strained ties with neighbors in the region are tightly connected with the Zionist-Palestinian conflict, which until now lacks resolution.