

U.S. Drone Attack Kills 4 in Southeastern Yemen



Yemenis gather around burning wreckage of a drone in the country's capital Sana'a, on October 1, 2017.

ADEN, Yemen (Dispatches) – At least four people were killed when a U.S. drone targeted their vehicles in the southeastern province of Shabwa early Tuesday, a security official told Xinhua.

“Two vehicles of al-Qaeda militants were struck with American missiles, leaving at least four terrorists killed at the scene,” the local security official said on condition of anonymity.

Local residents also said the two vehicles were completely destroyed with four charred bodies found in the area.

of the attacks.

The drone strikes in Yemen continue alongside the Saudi military aggression against the impoverished conflict-ridden country.

Saudi Arabia has been incessantly pounding Yemen since March 2015 in an attempt to crush the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement and reinstate former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur 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-led war has also triggered a deadly cholera epidemic across Yemen.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has taken advantage of the chaos and breakdown of security in Yemen to tighten its grip on the southern and southeastern parts of the Arab country.

Palestinians... (Continued From Page One)

The Arab League's Permanent Committee on Human Rights urged the International Criminal Court prosecutor to urgently investigate “the crimes of the Israeli occupation” against Palestinians.

“Israel is an oppressive and murderous entity and its politicians and officers must be taken to the International Criminal Court,” Amjad Shamout, the committee's chairman, said in a statement.

The Arab League will hold emergency talks Wednesday to discuss what it has called Washington's “illegal” relocation of its embassy to the disputed city.

On Tuesday morning, mourners marched through Gaza, waving Palestinian flags and calling for revenge. “With souls and blood we redeem you martyrs,” they shouted.

May 15 is traditionally the day Palestinians mark the “Nakba”, or Catastrophe, when hundreds of thousands fled or were driven from their homes in violence culminating in war between the newly created Zionist entity and its Arab neighbors in 1948.

More than 2 million people are crammed into the narrow Gaza Strip, more than two thirds of them refugees. Citing security concerns, Israel and Egypt maintain tight restrictions on the enclave, deepening economic hardship and raising humanitarian concerns.

On the occupied side of the fence, Israeli sharpshooters took up positions to stop any attempted breach of the fence should demonstrations break out again. Tanks were also deployed.

In Geneva, the UN human rights office condemned what it called the “appalling deadly violence” by Zionist forces.

The UN rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, Michael Lynk, said Israel's use of force may amount to a war crime.

In Gaza City, hundreds marched in the funeral of eight-month-old Leila al-Ghandour, whose body was wrapped in a Palestinian flag.

“Let her stay with me, it is too early for her to go,” her mother cried, pressing the baby's body to her chest.

Many shops in East Jerusalem Al-Quds were shut throughout the day following a call by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for a general strike across the Palestinian Territories. A 70-second siren was sounded in the occupied West Bank in commemoration of the Nakba.

Most Gaza protesters stay around tent camps but groups have ventured closer to the fence, rolling burning tires and throwing stones. Some have flown kites carrying containers of petrol that spread fires on the Israeli side.

Monday's protests were fueled by the opening ceremony for the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem Al-Quds following its relocation from Tel Aviv.

The United States on Monday blocked a Kuwait-drafted UN Security Council statement that would have expressed “outrage and sorrow at the killing of Palestinian civilians” and called for an independent investigation, UN diplomats said.

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building in a village in northern Homs.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said more evacuations are expected Tuesday. A group of U.S.-backed terrorists have a base in southern Homs near the border with Iraq.

Army Advances Near Damascus

Syrian forces Tuesday retook a neighborhood south of Damascus from Daesh, slicing off yet another part of the militant holdout, a monitoring group said.

“The Syrian government has seized control of the entire district of Hajar al-Aswad,” Rami Abdel-Rahman said, head of the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Daesh remains in control of the nearby district of Tadamon and 70% of the adjacent district of Yarmouk, a sprawling Palestinian camp.

“If the government continues to advance on the ground, Daesh will be surrounded and will be forced to negotiate an evacuation deal,” Abdel-Rahman said.

Such deals have allowed the government to recapture swathes of territory across Syria.

Around 160,000 Palestinian refugees once lived in Yarmouk, as well as Syrians. Just a few hundred people remain there now.

Besides Yarmouk, Daesh holds some desert territory in Syria's center and east.

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international investigation into the Gaza killings.

On Monday, Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif denounced “a day of great shame”.

“Israeli regime massacres countless Palestinians in cold blood as they protest in the world's largest open air prison,” he wrote on Twitter.

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capital has hosted several rounds of peace talks that led to an agreement on de-escalation zones across Syria.

The talks in Astana have been going on in tandem with UN-brokered Geneva talks.

According to reports, the conflict that broke out in Syria in 2011 has claimed the lives of over 470,000 people, injured 1.9 million others, and displaced nearly half of the country's pre-war population of about 23 million within or beyond its borders.

Russia:

U.S. Supporting Daesh in Syria Through SDF

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia's airbase in Syria's Lattakia province, known as Humeimim, says Washington supports the Daesh terrorist group in the Arab country through the U.S.-backed so-called Syrian Democratic Forces.

Humeimim announced that it has gained field reports disclosing that Washington is indirectly supporting and equipping the Daesh terrorists.

It added that Washington sup-

ports the terrorists group through its illegally created allies, the SDF forces, who pursue disintegration of Syria.

Meantime, local sources in Dayr al-Zawr reported that the SDF forces have detained scores of civilians in the province, including women, children and the elderly, en route from Damascus to the region and prevented their move to the province.

A well-informed source reported

on Monday that the U.S. forces were building a new military base in a desert-like region in Eastern Dayr al-Zawr two weeks after the Washington-backed SDF claimed to have started their anti-Daesh operation in Eastern Syria.

The source said that the U.S. military is building a new base equipped with advanced military tools and systems in Badiyeh (desert) al-Sha'afa in Dayr al-Zawr province, adding that the

construction of the base has been justified as a move in support of the SDF against Daesh in Eastern Dayr al-Zawr, while SDF has been engaged in several confrontations against the Syrian army.

The sources further said that the U.S. forces and the Washington-backed terrorists claim to be preparing for a possible operation against Daesh in the region, while they are spreading to the territories held by the Syrian army.

Iraqi PM Abadi Congratulates Sadr on Election Win

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi telephoned Moqtada al-Sadr on Tuesday in what appeared to be a political concession after the cleric took the largest number of parliamentary seats in the country's weekend election.

Final results have been delayed amid allegations of vote rigging in northern Iraq, with some Kurdish parties demanding a re-run of the weekend's poll.

A statement from al-Sadr's office said the premier praised the cleric for helping foster “a secure, democratic atmosphere,” during the campaign and vote.

Sadr's Marching Towards Reform Alliance of Shia nationals and Iraqi communists cobbled together a broad coalition with the aim of entering government and rooting out endemic corruption.

Responding to Abadi's comments, al-Sadr described his victory as “an achievement for the Iraqi people and its national entitlement.”

The electoral commission of Iraq announced that 44.5 percent of those eligible had cast their ballots in the elections.

Over 7,000 candidates contested 329 seats in the parliament that will choose a new president, premier and government in Iraq.

Among major challenges facing the new Iraqi premier is ensuring security and reconstructing the war-torn country.

Daesh unleashed a campaign of death and destruction in Iraq in 2014, overrunning vast swathes in lightning attacks. Iraqi army soldiers and al-



Iraqis celebrate during the general election in Baghdad on May 14, 2018.

lied fighters then launched operations to eliminate the terrorist group and retake lost territory.

Last December, al-Abadi declared the end of the anti-Daesh campaign in the Arab country. The group's remnants, though, keep staging sporadic attacks across Iraq.

Turkey Detains 54 Suspected Daesh Members

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkish authorities have detained 54 suspected members of Daesh terrorist group in Istanbul who were believed to be preparing to travel to conflict zones in Syria, police said on Tuesday.

All of those detained were foreign nationals, it said, without giving details on when the detentions took place.

Turkish officials say Ankara has detained over 5,000 Daesh suspects and deported about

3,290 foreign militants from 95 different countries in the past few years.

In recent years, Daesh militants have carried out a series of gun and bomb attacks in Turkey. According to figures released by the country's Interior Ministry, over 300 have been killed in major assaults.

The presence of purported Daesh members in Turkey seems to be a side-effect of Turkish support for anti-Damascus militants in Syria.

Police said many roads in central Istanbul will be closed while heavy vehicles will not be allowed to enter some areas.

Security has been fragile across Turkey over the past years as Daesh and outlawed Kurdish militant groups have launched high-profile attacks on civilians and security forces. The country is still under a state of emergency over a failed coup attempt in July 2016 which left more than 250 killed.