

## Quake Hits Southeast Turkey

ANKARA (Reuters) – An earthquake struck Turkey's southeastern province of Adiyaman early on Tuesday, injuring 13 people and causing damage to buildings, state-run Anadolu news agency said. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said the earthquake, which struck at 0034 GMT, had a magnitude of 5.2 and occurred at a depth of 10 kilometers. Anadolu said the 13 injured were transferred to hospitals but were not in serious condition. Images posted on social media showed serious damage to numerous houses.

Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Palestinians File Complaint to UN Against Zionist Regime



Zionist police arrest a Palestinian protester in the West Bank city of Ramallah, December 22, 2017.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinian diplomats in Geneva have filed a complaint with the United Nations against the Zionist regime for resorting to discriminatory measures and violating its obligations under a UN anti-racism treaty only to maintain a “colonial occupation.” The complaint was delivered by the Palestinian Ambassador to the UN Human Rights Council Ibrahim Khraishi to the body that monitors the implementation of the UN convention against racism on Monday.

In the 350-page document seen by The Guardian, Palestinians say the

Tel Aviv regime is implementing policies that have “the common aim of displacing and replacing the Palestinian people for the purpose of maintaining a colonial occupation.”

Palestinians listed several cases of rights violations by the occupying regime in the occupied territories, accusing the regime of seeking to sustain “a Jewish demographic majority in the entirety of historic Palestine.”

“Not only is the purpose of the settlement regime discriminatory in itself, it is further maintained by a system of discriminatory measures,

severely depriving Palestinians of their fundamental rights,” it said.

The complaint also said Palestinians are severely limited in their freedom of movement compared to Zionist settlers and are subject to “confiscation and seizure” of their land, including home demolitions.

It also said the regime violates the right to equal treatment before tribunals by using separate legal systems for Palestinians and settlers, and points to higher maximum sentences for Palestinian defendants.

The UN Committee on the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), a body of 18 independent experts, is tasked with monitoring the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Israel ratified in 1979.

Palestinians, who were granted observer status at the UN General Assembly in 2012, signed the convention in 2014.

They say the occupying regime is in breach of article 3 of the convention, which prohibits racial segregation and apartheid.

“It is clear that Israel’s acts are part of a widespread and oppressive regime that is institutionalized and systematic; that accords separate and unequal treatment to Palestinians,” Palestinians said, calling for the dismantling of all illegal Israeli settlements.

Earlier on Friday, Palestinian ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour called on the world body to set up an independent commission to investigate the Zionist regime’s crimes after four more Palestinians were killed in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The case is likely to spark a lengthy and high-profile investigation by world bodies monitoring racism and discrimination.

In recent weeks, the regime has been violently cracking down on peaceful mass demonstrations in Gaza against the regime’s occupation. Forty Palestinians have been killed during this time.

## Syrian Forces Hit Terrorist Positions Near Damascus



A Syrian government tank drives down a street in al-Hajar al-Aswad on April 23, 2018, during an offensive targeting Takfiri Daesh terrorist group in southern Damascus.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian government troops, supported by Syrian Air Force fighter jets, have launched a new operation in the country’s southwestern province of Rif Dimashq, targeting underground tunnels and fortified positions used by Daesh terrorists.

Syria’s official news agency SANA reported that Syrian military aircraft and army artillery units destroyed dug-out trenches and tunnels in al-Hajar al-Aswad city, located just four kilometers south of the capital Damascus, and the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk on Tuesday.

Syrian ground forces also advanced from several directions after terrorists’ defense lines were hit hard.

Government troops engaged in fierce clashes with terrorists near Hajar al-

Aswad, Yalda and Babbila towns on the southern outskirts of Damascus, cutting off the terrorists’ supply lines.

Scores of terrorists were killed in the process, and several others managed to flee to nearby neighborhoods.

Also on Tuesday, the fourth batch of foreign-sponsored terrorists and their families departed eastern Qalamoun area for a designated point on the outskirts of al-Rahaiba town in northern Syria.

The third group of terrorists and their families evacuated eastern Qalamoun on Monday evening.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed terrorism since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Zionist regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

## UN Chief Slams Deadly Saudi Airstrike on Yemeni Wedding



Yemenis check the damage in a power station in the aftermath of an air strike by the Saudi-led coalition in the Yemeni capital Sana'a on April 20, 2018.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The UN Secretary General has strongly decried Saudi Arabia’s deadly airstrike on a wedding ceremony in Yemen’s Hajjah province.

“The Secretary General reminds

all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law concerning the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure during armed conflicts. He calls for a prompt, effective and transparent

investigation,” said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

On Sunday, a wedding ceremony in Yemen’s was targeted by Saudi airstrikes in which almost 50 people were killed and 55 others injured.

Saudi jets also carried out raids on ambulances transporting the casualties to local hospitals.

The head of al-Jumhuri hospital in Hajjah province told Reuters by telephone that the hospital had received dozens of bodies, most of them torn to pieces, and that 46 people had been injured, including 30 children, in airstrikes that hit a wedding gathering.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi also slammed the attack as a violent and inhumane move by the Saudis.

He added that Saudi Arabia’s recent increase on attacks on innocent civilians is a sign that they have been unsuccessful in obtaining their goals

in the war-torn country.

While offering condolences to the families of the victims, Qassemi said that “the increase of bombing raids on residential areas is a sign of frustration and failure of those attacking Yemen,” he added.

The Saudi aggression was launched in March 2015 in support of Yemen’s former Riyadh-friendly government of president Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and against the country’s Houthis Ansarullah movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective administration.

The offensive has, however, achieved neither of its goals despite the spending of billions of petrodollars and the enlisting of Saudi Arabia’s regional and Western allies.

The Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights announced in a statement on March 25 that the Saudi-led war had left 600,000 civilians dead and injured since March 2015.

## 16 Militants Killed in Afghan Army Operation

KABUL (Dispatches) – At least 16 Taliban militants were killed and four others injured after Afghan army waged an operation in restive southern province of Zabul, the defense ministry said Tuesday.

“The cleanup operation was launched in Shamulzay district on Monday and the initial information found that among those dead were a Taliban divisional commander and three would-be suicide bombers,” the ministry said in a statement.

A weapon and ammunition cache, one

vehicle and two motorcycles were also destroyed by the army personnel backed by the helicopters, the statement added.

The Afghan and NATO and U.S.-led coalition forces continued mopping-up operations as spring and summer known as fighting season is drawing near in the mountainous country.

The Taliban militant group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than 17 years, has yet to make comments.

In another development, two Afghan policemen have been killed and six soldiers have been captured

in operations by the Taliban militant group in the northwestern province of Badghis.

Mohammad Naser Nazari, a member of the provincial council, said the Taliban militants stormed several police and military checkpoints in Qadis district during the early hours of Tuesday. He added that the situation was under control after the arrival of reinforcements and that the militants were chased away.

Other reports said the militants launched a similar raid on a number

of other checkpoints in the western province of Farah and the east-central province of Ghazni. Local officials have not yet commented on the attacks. However, a Taliban spokesman claimed later in the day that militants had managed to capture at least two soldiers during a battle in Farah.

The Taliban have increased their operations across the country in recent months, possibly provoked by US President Donald Trump’s announcement of a troop surge in the country.

## ‘Iraq to Launch Strikes Inside Syria to Eliminate Baghdadi’

BAGHDAD (Press TV) – An Iraqi lawmaker says Baghdad has received intelligence on the whereabouts of a number of senior Daesh terrorists inside Syria, and that it is planning to carry out airstrikes on those targets to eliminate the terrorist outfit’s ringleader known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Abdel Aziz Hassan, the rapporteur of the Iraqi parliament’s security and defense committee, was quoted by Iraqi media as saying on Monday that Baghdad is in possession of information about the presence of a number of Daesh terrorist leaders at a border area between Iraq and Syria.

Hassan said Baghdadi, whose real name is Ibrahim al-Samarrai, was expected to be at one of those sites inside Syria, adding that the Iraqi government would seek the Damascus government’s approval before launching the air raid.

Iraqi warplanes killed Abu Luqman al-Suri, a notorious Daesh leader who is believed to be the deputy of Baghdadi, in an aerial attack on terrorist hotbeds inside Syria.

Intelligence sources said that Suri was “in charge of recruiting attackers and dispatching them to Iraq to carry out bomb attacks there.”

The development came a day after Iraqi Joint Operations Command (JOC) spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Rasool stated that Iraqi military aircraft had launched a series of attacks in Syria, killing 36 Daesh militants.

There were six senior leaders among the slain terrorists.

Earlier in February, Iraqi authorities published a list of “internationally wanted terrorist leaders” headed by Baghdadi.

Abu Ali al-Basri, the head of the Iraqi Interior Ministry’s intelligence and counter-terrorism operations service, also said Baghdadi was alive and hiding” in Jazira region, in Syria’s northeastern province of Hasakah.

Multiple unverified reports have emerged over the past months of Baghdadi’s death or injury.

Back in June last year, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov said that it was “highly likely” that Baghdadi had been eliminated in an airstrike of the Russian Air Force on a militant command post in a southern suburb of the Syrian city of Raqqah in late May.

A month later, an unnamed local source in Iraq’s Nineveh province told Iraq’s Arabic-language al-Sumeria satellite television network that Daesh had announced the death of its leader in a brief statement released via the terrorist group’s media outlet in the center of Tal Afar city, situated 63 kilometers west of Mosul, without providing further details.

A few days after the al-Sumeria’s report, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said that there was no evidence that Baghdadi was dead despite the terrorist group’s confirmation that its ringleader “has been killed.”