

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkey's intelligence agency has seized a man in Syria suspected of coordinating a 2013 bombing that killed 53 people in southern Turkey, a Turkish security official said on Wednesday.

State-run news agency Anadolu said that during his questioning, Yusuf Nazik confessed to having arranged the transport of explosives into Turkey. Twin car bombs ripped through the border town of Reyhanli on May 11, 2013. At the time, Turkey had accused a group loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad of carrying out the attacks. Damascus denied any involvement.

Whoever wants to be a leader should educate himself before educating others. Before preaching to others he should first practice himself. Whoever educates himself and improves his own morals is superior to the man who tries to teach and train others.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Saudi-Arabia Resumes Air Strikes on Yemen's Hudaydah



A Yemeni child recites a prayer by the graves of schoolboys who were killed while on a bus that was hit by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike in August.

SANAA (Dispatches) – A Saudi-led military coalition resumed air strikes on Wednesday in support of Yemeni allied forces seeking to capture the Red Sea port city of Hudaydah from Houthi Ansarullah fighters, residents said.

The offensive restarted after a two-month break, following the failure of inter-Yemeni talks sponsored by the United Nations last week in Geneva.

The offensive came as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed on Wednesday he had certified to Congress that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are working to avoid harming civilians in Yemen, a determination required by this year's military spending bill.

Pompeo said in a statement he had advised Congress on Tuesday that "the governments of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates are undertaking demonstrable actions to reduce the risk of harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure resulting from military operations of these governments."

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and a coalition of its regional allies, mainly the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, started a war against Yemen with the declared aim of crushing the Houthi Ansarullah movement, who had taken over from the staunch Riyadh ally and former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, while also seeking to secure the Saudi

border with its southern neighbor. More than three years later and over 15,000 dead and thousands more injured, the war has yielded little to that effect.

The ongoing aggression by the Saudi-led coalition has devastated Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the Middle East. The war is estimated to have cost the Saudis upwards of \$100 billion, eroded the international image of the kingdom and failed to achieve any of its objectives.

The spokesman for Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement says the United Nations cannot put an end to the almost three-and-a-half years old Saudi-led military campaign against Yemen, which has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of innocent civilians and left the country's critical infrastructure in ruins.

"The United Nations failed to obtain the necessary permit. The Saudi-led coalition claimed as usual that we had set out conditions. The alliance even went to the extent to exaggerate that the wounded fighters we were planning to take with us for treatment in Europe were of Iranian and Lebanese origins. Such allegations were made out of political bankruptcy," Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network cited Mohammed Abdul-Salam as writing on his official Twitter page on Sunday.

Paralyzed Palestinian Sentenced to 35 Years in Prison



Ayman Kurd (C) is escorted by Israeli prison officers at the al-Quds district court in Israeli-occupied territories on February 13, 2018.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – An Israeli court has sentenced a paralyzed young Palestinian man to 35 years in prison for allegedly stabbing two police officers at the Herod's Gate to the Old City of al-Quds two years ago.

On Wednesday, the three-judge panel of the al-Quds district court stated that the sentence against 21-year-old Ayman Kurd was long, but said "it was necessary, given the severe and exceptional circumstances of his acts and their serious outcomes."

Zionist officials say Kurd seriously wounded 38-year-old policewoman Tzipi Ya'akobian and moderately injured her 47-year-old male colleague on September 19, 2016.

The young Palestinian man purportedly knifed the policeman in the neck from behind and then stabbed Ya'akobian a number of times in her head and neck. At that point, the policeman drew a weapon and shot at Kurd a number of times.

The attack left Ya'akobian permanently disabled after her spinal cord was severed.

Kurd was also left unable to walk due to the gunshot wounds he suffered, and is confined to a wheelchair.

The district court charged Kurd with two counts of attempted murder and one count of carrying a

proscribed weapon.

It also ordered the young Palestinian to pay restitution to both police officers – 258,000 shekels (\$71,930) to Ya'akobian and 70,000 shekels (\$19,516) to the policeman.

The occupied territories have witnessed new tensions ever since U.S. President Donald Trump on December 6, 2017 announced Washington's recognition of al-Quds as the Zionist regime's "capital" and said the U.S. would move its embassy to the city.

The dramatic decision triggered demonstrations in the occupied Palestinian territories and elsewhere in the world.

The status of al-Quds is the thorniest issue in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Palestinians see East al-Quds as the capital of their future state.

Moreover, nearly 175 Palestinians have been killed by Zionist troops ever since "The Great March of Return" protest rallies began in the Gaza Strip on March 30. A total of 19,139 Palestinians have also sustained injuries.

The Gaza clashes reached their peak on May 14, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of Nakba Day (Day of Catastrophe), which coincided this year with the U.S. embassy relocation from Tel Aviv to occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds.

After U.S. Aid Cutoff UNRWA Urges Arab States to Provide More Funds

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Pierre Krahenbuhl has urged Arab states to provide further funding after the U.S. decision to halt its financial aid.

Krahenbuhl's remarks came during a meeting of Arab foreign ministers held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo to discuss the repercussions of Washington's decision on the conditions of some 5.3 million Palestinian refugees.

The UNRWA chief hailed the donations of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait to the UN agency.

"I humbly appeal to all of you to ensure that the pledges that were made are indeed transferred. Please do also consider opportunities for further donations at this critical time," he said.

Krahenbuhl pointed out that the support of oil-rich Persian Gulf states and other donors enabled his agency to open the school year on time for 526,000 Palestinian students.

"This was the best possible response to give to the challenges we faced," he said, adding that UNRWA still needs 186 million U.S. dollars to ensure that the schools and clinics stay open and emergency services remain operational.

He also expressed his "deep regret and disappointment" at the decision to cut funding by the U.S., which used to be UNRWA's "historically most generous and consistent donor."

The Palestinian-Zionist conflict has been going on for decades, since the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestinian territories and the Western-backed creation of the



UNRWA urges Arab states to provide more funds after U.S. aid cutoff.

regime in 1948.

The U.S. has taken several measures to support to Israel, including recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital last December and relocating the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the disputed

holy city later in May.

The Palestinians seek to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital in light of the UN-proposed two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

Dozens Killed, Injured in Blast Near Iraq's Tikrit

TIKRIT (Dispatches) – At least six people were killed and 42 wounded when a bomber detonated a car full of explosives at a restaurant on a highway near the Iraqi city of Tikrit on Wednesday, police and medical sources said.

Police said the attacker targeted the Qala'a restaurant which is usually frequented by security forces members and paramilitary fighters.

Most of the casualties were a group of Iraqi tourists traveling on board a bus that stopped by the restaurant, police and medical source said.

No group has claimed responsibility, but Daesh terrorists often carry out such attacks.

Iraqi security officials have said Daesh is likely to wage militancy in Iraq after its self-proclaimed caliphate all but collapsed and the terrorists were dislodged from large areas of the west and north of the country.

The group's terrorists have since then waged a campaign of kidnappings and killings.

German SPD Rejects Syria Intervention Without UN Mandate

BERLIN (Dispatches) – The leader of Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) said on Wednesday her party would not agree to military intervention in Syria if the United Nations did not authorize the international community to take such action.

"As long as this doesn't happen, we Social Democrats can't agree to a violent intervention in Syria," Andrea Nahles told the Bundestag lower house of parliament.

Earlier on Wednesday Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany could not simply look away if chemical attacks took place, speaking two days after the German government said it was in talks with allies about a possible military deployment in Syria. Germany, the world's fourth

largest economy, is under pressure from the United States to boost military spending and shoulder more responsibility within NATO. It did not participate in military strikes carried out by U.S., French and British forces on Syria in April after a chemical weapons attack.

But Merkel and her conservatives must win over the more pacifist Social Democrats (SPD), junior partners in the ruling coalition, and overcome massive public opposition to Germany's participation in military combat missions.

SPD leader Andrea Nahles on Wednesday told lawmakers her party would not agree to military intervention in Syria unless the United Nations authorized such action.