

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian government forces have uncovered a considerable amount of Israeli-made medicine and medical supplies in a field hospital belonging to foreign-sponsored terrorists in the country's strategic southwestern province of Quneitra. Local sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Syria's official news agency, SANA, that army soldiers made the discovery in the village of Bariqa as they were combing the area for hidden ordinance and improvised explosive devices, which terrorists had planted there.

There are four causes of infidelity and loss of belief in Allah: hankering after whims, a passion to dispute every argument, deviation from truth; and dissension.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

'U.S. a Threat to Syria's Territorial Integrity'

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday that the United States' control over the eastern bank of the Euphrates river posed the main threat to Syria's territorial integrity, Interfax news agency reported.

He also said that Russia and Turkey have agreed on the borders of an Idlib demilitarized zone and that Nusra front fighters should leave the zone by mid-October.

In another development, Turkey's defense ministry said on Friday the borders of the demilitarized zone to be set up in Syria's Idlib region were agreed in meetings with a Russian committee.

The borders were agreed taking into account the area's geographical structure and residential areas, it said, adding that the meetings were held between Sept. 19-21 at Turkey's defense ministry.

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan and Russia's Vladimir Putin announced an agreement on Monday under which Russian



U.S. special operations forces walk in the village of Fatisah in the northern Syrian province of Raqqah on May 25, 2016.

and Turkish troops will enforce the new demilitarized zone in the Idlib region, from which terrorists will be required to withdraw by the middle of next month.

It is estimated that an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 members of different factions of armed groups, which Russia and Turkey consider terrorists, are active in the volatile

province, which is home to around three million inhabitants.

Furthermore, Ankara supports tens of thousands of other militants, describing them as members of the so-called "moderate" armed factions fighting against the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Damascus and Moscow brand all of the armed

factions in the region as terrorists.

Damascus has already said that it is preparing for a full-scale military operation against terrorists.

The Turkish government has been trying to persuade its loyal armed groups to evacuate Idlib in a purported bid to avert the anti-terror operation. However, it has not said how it would persuade them to disarm. Previous attempts have failed and the upcoming offensive is causing frictions among militants.

Some 60 percent of the province is said to be controlled by members of the so-called Hayat Tahrir al-Sham Takfiri terrorist group, which is a coalition of different factions of terror outfits, largely composed of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham formerly known as al-Nusra Front.

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

Saudi Arabia, UAE Using Israeli Spyware to Spy on Citizens

RIYADH (Dispatches) – A recent report has revealed that Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been among the countries that have been extensively using the spyware Pegasus to spy on their own people and track human rights advocates.

The report, published by Citizen Lab, said the usage of Pegasus - made by the Tel Aviv-based NSO company - in both countries had significantly increased between August 2016 and August 2018.

"Our findings paint a bleak picture of the human rights risks of NSO's global proliferation. At least six countries with significant Pegasus operations have previously been linked to abusive use of spyware to target civil society," the Citizen Lab said in its report, refusing to name all the countries.

Citizen Lab said it identified at least six operators with "signifi-

cant operations" in the Persian Gulf region including at least two that appeared to predominantly focus on the UAE and one with a Saudi focus. One was also focused on Bahrain, it added, without elaborating whether it was affiliated to Saudi Arabia - which is helping Manama suppress dissent - or not.

"Three operators may be conducting surveillance beyond the MENA region, including in Canada, France, Greece, the United Kingdom, and the United States," the report added.

The UAE had earlier used the phone hacking spyware to spy on several Arab figures, including the Qatari emir, Lebanese prime minister, and a Saudi prince.

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that have been extensively using the spyware Pegasus to spy on their own people and track human rights advocates.

The New York Times reported on August 31 that the NSO Group and affiliates had actively participated in cyber attacks on individuals sought by the UAE using the controversial Pegasus spyware to turn their smart phones into surveillance devices.

Two lawsuits have been filed against the company in the Israeli-occupied territories and Cyprus by a Qatari citizen as well as Mexican journalists and human rights activists who say they were targeted by the spyware.

Saudi national Yehia Assiri, one of the targets of the spyware, told the Middle East Eye recently that "governments that use these technologies have something to be

scared of, and have no respect for human rights."

Assiri also described the move as a reflection of the lies by the governments that use Israeli spy tools to monitor their citizens.

"They publicly claim their animosity toward Israel, but secretly use its products to spy on activists whom it then accuses of treason," he said.

Pegasus is a modular malware. After scanning the target's device, it installs the necessary modules to read the user's messages and mail, listen to calls, capture screenshots, log pressed keys, exfiltrate browser history, contacts, and so on and so forth. Basically, it can spy on every aspect of the target's life.

The spyware has been around for at least three years, when it was first detailed in a report over the summer of 2016.

Amid Muharram Crackdown

Bahraini Regime Detains Another Shia Cleric

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahraini regime forces have detained another Shia Muslim cleric as the ruling Al Khalifah dynasty presses ahead with its heavy-handed crackdown against members of the religious community during the Muslim mourning month of Muharram.

Rights activists, requesting anonymity, said Bahraini officials ordered the arrest of Sheikh Mohammed al-Reish after he underwent an hours-long investigation at a police station in the Hoor district of the capital Manama, Arabic-language Lualua television network reported.

The report came only two days after Shia clergyman Sheikh Majid al-Sahlawi was arrested, and the public prosecutor's office ordered him to be detained for 15 days pending investigations.

There are no reports yet on the charges of the cleric.

Earlier, Bahraini troops had arrested Sheikh Hani al-Banna and Sheikh Yassin al-Jamri, and took them to the police station in the coastal town of al-Budaiya.

A Bahraini source, requesting not to be named, said regime forces had summoned a number of Shia clergymen over the past few days for their sermons in the run-up to Ashura, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Bahraini regime forces have removed stalls set up to provide food and drinks to the mourners as well as Ashura signs across the country.

Bahrain forces attack mourning Shias on Ashura

Meanwhile, Bahraini regime forces have attacked dozens of Shia Muslims marking Ashura. On Thursday, dozens of people took to the

streets in the village of Nuwaidrat, located about 10 kilometers south of Manama, carrying banners in commemoration of the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and pictures of distinguished Shia cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim, who has been stripped of his citizenship.

The Manama regime's mercenaries then raided, and fired teargas canisters to disperse mourners chanting "Labaik Ya Hussain" to invoke the memory of the third Shia Imam. A number of mourners suffered breathing difficulties, red eyes and wheezing as a result.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the country in mid-February 2011.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Ashura, the Day of Victory

By: Dr.A.R. Qavidel (Clinical Psychologist – Javan Counseling Center)

Thursday the 20th September 2018 was the day of Ashura or the 10th of Muharram in Iran and countries to its west, while in the Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent, Ashura was on Friday – because of the late sighting of the crescent of Muharram.

Ashura is indeed the Day of victory for Islam and Muslims, because of the selfless sacrifice of Imam Husain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) in Karbala in 61 AH (680 AD) to save humanity and humanitarian values. Ashura is commemorated not only by the Shi'a or those Muslims exclusively following the path of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt but also by Sunni Muslims as well as all freedom-loving people throughout the world as a day of mourning for the sufferings that Imam Husain (AS) patiently endured.

Imam Husain (AS) needs no introduction. He was the son of the Prophet's Immaculate Daughter Hazrat Fatema Zahra (AS), while his Father was the Peerless Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). His elder brother was the Immaculate Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), while God decreed Nine Infallible Imams among his descendants, with the last one being Imam Mahdi (AS) the Promised Savior of mankind.

The merits of Imam Husain (AS) as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an and as elaborated by the Prophet, including the verses of Mubahela, Purity, Surah Dahr etc., and the Hadith of Thaqalayn, Ark, Youths of Paradise, and so on, are outside the scope of this brief newspaper article.

The Tragedy of Karbala

History has recorded that the years during the reign of Muawiyah, the usurper of the caliphate, were years of angry protest against him by Imam Husain (AS) because Muawiyah had breached the terms of his treaty with Imam Hassan Mojtaba (AS), distorted the letter and spirit of the laws of Islam, and in 60 AH, designated his lecherous son, Yazid, as caliph.

When Yazid demanded pledge to his ungodly rule, Imam Husain (AS) left Medina and went to Mecca, where some 12,000 letter were sent to him by the people of Kufa inviting him to come to Iraq and deliver them from Omayyad rule.

Yazid sent assassins to Mecca to murder Imam Husain (AS) undetected in the midst of the Hajj pilgrimage. The Imam, in order to safeguard the fundamentals of Islam and to prevent the desecration of the Holy Ka'ba – the Symbolic House of God – from the shedding of blood, journeyed towards Iraq.

At the Karbala, the Imam was besieged by Yazid's army, which cut his access from the River Euphrates, unless he surrendered. The Imam refused and preferred to accept the challenge of an unequal battle between his small group of seventy-odd companions and the several-thousand strong Omayyad army.

Imam Husain (AS) and his companions bravely courted martyrdom, and through their faith and courage set lasting examples for posterity on how to achieve victory in death against tyranny.

By choosing martyrdom, the Prophet's Grandson deprived the evil regime of its false claim to legitimacy. Indeed, he shook the foundations of the Omayyad dynasty and thwarted its perverse designs. That is the reason he remains immortal to this day, and the tragedy of Karbala is commemorated with full fervor.

However, holding mourning assemblies and mourning the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS) are not enough to do justice to the sacred Islamic ideals. Rather, those values must be understood and promoted by all, and not only with words but with deeds as well.

Along with all those who await the appearance of Imam Mahdi (AS) let us join together and supplicate to God:

Who will avenge the blood of the martyrs of Karbala? Where is Hasan (AS) and where is Husain (AS)? Where are the children of Husain (AS)? Where is the impenetrable defense that broke the back of the oppressive tyrants? Where is the "Awaited Savior" who will set the have-nots and the depressed on their feet?

Sayings of Imam Husain (AS)

Addressing the army of Yazid, the Imam said: *By Allah, neither will I give in to the humiliation of honoring tyrants like you, nor will I flee like slaves...*

Life under the oppression of tyrants is death, and death for the sake of justice is everlasting life.

Surely some people worship Allah for the joys of paradise -- this is the worship of traders. Some worship him for their fear of hell -- this is the worship of slaves. Yet, some worship him selflessly because He is worthy of worship and this is the worship of "freemen"

He who tries to achieve something through acting disobediently to Allah will miss what he expects and fall into what he fears.

Ziyarat or Salutation for Imam Husain (AS)

Here are some phrases from the Ziyarat-e Wareh:

Peace on you, O Successor of Adam, the Purified of Allah!

Peace on you, O successor of Noah, the Prophet of Allah!

Peace on you, O Successor of Abraham, the Endeared of Allah!

Peace on you, O Successor of Moses, who Conversed with Allah!

Peace on you, O Successor of Jesus, the Spirit of Allah!

Peace on you, O Successor of Muhammad, the Chosen of Allah!

Peace on you, O successor of Ali, Commander of the Faithful!

I testify that you kept up the prayer, and paid the poor rate and ordered good actions and forbade sinful actions, and obeyed Allah and his Messenger till the last breath. So, may Allah curse the people who assassinated you, and may Allah curse the people who oppressed you, and may Allah curse the people who heard of it and were pleased with it!

Ashura is thus the Day of Victory for the faithful and the Day of Defeat for the forces of evil. The Prophet said:

"Indeed, the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS) creates warmth in the hearts of believers which never gets cool."