

## 'Son of Ousted Egyptian President Mursi Detained'

CAIRO (Reuters) – Egyptian police detained the youngest son of ousted former president Mohamed Mursi from his home on the outskirts of Cairo early on Wednesday, his brother and three security sources said.

Two security sources said Abdullah Mursi was arrested on charges of "spreading false news", in connection with an interview he gave to the Associated Press news agency last week that focused on his father's detention.

In the interview, Abdullah said his father's health had deteriorated due to prison conditions and that the family was rarely allowed to visit.

Submission to Allah's will is the best companion; wisdom is the noblest heritage; theoretical and practical knowledge are the best signs of distinction; deep thinking will present the clearest picture of every problem.

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# Mass Grave of 1,500 Daesh Victims Discovered in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian government forces have discovered a mass grave containing the bodies of more than one thousand people executed by Daesh terrorists in the country's northern city of Raqqah.

Russia's RT Arabic television news network reported that Syrian soldiers made the discovery at the Panorama roundabout in the north-western flank of the city, located about 455 kilometers (283 miles) northeast of the capital Damascus, and that the grave has the corpses of at least 1,500 civilians and military personnel in it.

The report added that responders are working to uncover and identify bodies at the site from clothes, fingerprints, documents or other special markers.

The mass grave makes it the largest one found in Raqqah so far.

Syrian Forensic Medicine General Director Zaher Hajo told Arabic-language and pro-government



This picture shows the remains of bodies recovered from a mass grave in the northwestern Syrian city of Raqqah on October 8, 2018.

al-Watan daily in early January that Daesh terrorists had executed 10,000 people and buried their bodies in mass graves across Raqqah.

He stressed that his colleagues had confirmed the presence of 4,000 bodies in one single grave.

Hajo went on to say that Syrian

Health Minister Nizar Yazigi has ordered the formation of a committee in order to collect the remains of the victims and transfer them to the military hospital in Aleppo.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has signed a decree, granting amnesty to those who have either de-

serted the army or avoided military service, and giving them several months to report for duty.

In the decree issued on his social media feeds on Tuesday, President Assad said the amnesty covered all punishments for desertion inside or outside Syria.

Men inside Syria will have four months to turn themselves in to authorities for investigations while those outside will have six months, according to the decree.

While the amnesty covers desertion, it does not cover fighting against the government or joining the terrorists.

Tens of thousands of Syrian men are wanted by the government for not serving in the military or deserting the army during the years-long war waged by terrorists.

Under Syrian military law, deserters could be jailed for years if they leave their posts and do not report for service within a set amount of time.

## Turkey: Demilitarized Zone Around Syria's Idlib Set Up



Turkey's defense ministry said on Wednesday the demilitarized zone in Syria's Idlib has been formed and heavy weapons have been withdrawn.

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkey's defense ministry said on Wednesday the demilitarized zone in Syria's Idlib has been formed and heavy weapons have been withdrawn, following an agreement by Russian and Turkish leaders in Sochi last month.

The agreement dictated that heavy weapons, tanks, rocket systems and mortars of all opposition groups would be withdrawn by Oct. 10, and the zone will be monitored by coordinated Turkish and Russian patrols.

Under the deal agreed last month between Turkey and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's ally Moscow, "radical" militants will be required to withdraw by

the middle of this month from the zone, and heavy weaponry must be withdrawn from the 15-20 km buffer zone by Oct. 10.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday over 1,000 militants had left the zone.

Asked about Turkish reports that all heavy weapons had been removed, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters that around 100 heavy weapon units had been withdrawn from the zone, but gave no further details.

The main terrorist group in the Idlib area, Tahrir al-Sham, has yet to comment publicly on the agreement.

## 'Yemenis Target Saudi Military Boat in Counter-Strike'

SANAA (Press TV) – Yemeni naval forces have targeted and destroyed a Saudi military boat off the war-torn country's northwestern coast, killing all aboard the vessel.

The al-Masirah television network reported that the retaliatory attack by Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement took place off the Midi coast on Wednesday.

The Saudi-led coalition has not yet commented on the counter-attack, which came amid a rise in its airstrikes on the port city of Hudaydah, a lifeline for millions of people.

Earlier reports suggested that 86 Yemenis had over the past two days fallen victim to Sau-

di-led air raids on the strategic Red Sea port city.

AFP cited military and medical sources as saying on Tuesday that the Saudi aerial assaults had pounded an area close to the Hudaydah port, two farms and two training camps for the Houthi Ansarullah movement in the past 48 hours.

Rescue personnel and medical sources said the airstrikes had killed 79 Houthi fighters and seven civilians.

Saudi Arabia and its allies launched a brutal war against Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall the former Riyadh-allied regime. The Houthi movement, backed by allied Yemeni armed forces,

have been defending the country against the Saudi-led aggression.

Back in June, the Saudi-led coalition launched the Hudaydah offensive despite international warnings that it would compound the war-torn nation's humanitarian crisis.

It stepped up the Hudaydah campaign in September following the collapse of United Nations-backed talks between the warring sides.

Hudaydah is the entry point for most of Yemen's imports and aid supplies. The Saudi-led coalition claims that the Houthis are using the port city for weapons delivery, an allegation rejected by the fighters.

So far, the aggressors have been unable to penetrate the defenses of the Houthis in Hudaydah.

Last week, the Saudi-led coalition announced that it had sent Sudanese reinforcements to the Hudaydah front.

"The aim of the arrived Sudanese servicemen will be to reinforce troops already deployed there" in order to occupy the territories under the Houthis' control, the coalition said in a statement.

The Western-backed war on Yemen, coupled with a naval blockade, has destroyed the country's infrastructure and led to famine as well as a cholera outbreak.

## Lebanon's Berri Cites 'Positive Atmosphere' Over Gov't

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said on Wednesday some saw "a positive, promising atmosphere" in talks over forming a new government and his office was actively engaged in contacts on the issue though these require more time.

Berri, one of the most powerful figures in the state, also said the economic situation was "very fragile" and urged everyone to "shoulder their responsibilities", according to al-Manar TV station, which is run by the resistance movement Hezbollah.

Lebanese politicians have been unable to agree on a new power-sharing cabinet since a parliamentary election in May.

The remarks come a day after Lebanese Prime Minister-designate Saad al-Hariri said he hoped a new government would be formed after President Michel

Aoun returns from a trip abroad, after all sides made concessions.

In the more than five months since a parliamentary election in May, politicians have been unable to agree a unity government that can get to work on badly needed economic reforms.

"There are concessions from all sides, including the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM)," Hariri told reporters.

"We hope for the formation of a government after the return of the president from Yerevan, because the economic and social situation calls for speedy government formation," he said.

Aoun is expected to return from Armenia on Friday.

Rivalry between the two leading Christian parties - the FPM, allied to the Shia Hezbollah movement, and the anti-Hezbollah Lebanese Forces (LF) is widely seen as the main obstacle to a deal.

## Afghan Officials Get 20 Years for Handing Secrets to Pakistan

KABUL (Dispatches) – Two Afghan military officials were jailed for 20 years after a two-year trial for sharing state secrets with Pakistan, a prosecutor said on Wednesday.

The sentence highlights a long-standing belief between Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan that the other country does not adequately prevent cross-border militant attacks.

Shah Mohammad and Nazirullah were arrested in 2016 after traveling to Pakistan to hand over information to Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency. They pleaded not guilty but eventually "confessed to their crime" before the military court in the eastern city of Jalalabad, officials said.

"Each of them has been sentenced to 20 years in prison by the primary court," said Najiburrahman Nadim, a military prosecutor.

Nadim said the accused had shared secret information about attacks and bomb blasts.

Afghanistan's Western-backed government has long accused Pakistan of harboring Afghan Taliban insurgents, a charge that Islamabad denies.

Islamabad, in turn, accuses Afghanistan of not doing enough to eradicate Pakistani Taliban militants, many of whom are based in Afghanistan and mostly carry out attacks inside Pakistan.

A defense lawyer representing the two army officials rejected the court's verdict, which was delivered on Tuesday.

"My clients were beaten during the investigations and they were forced to confess. We don't accept the decision and we will appeal," said Toryalai Muqanen.

## Despite S-300 Delivery Zionist Regime Strikes in Syria to Continue

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he has informed Russian officials that the Tel Aviv will continue to hit targets inside Syria, irrespective of Moscow's decision to deliver advanced S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to the Damascus government.

Speaking at a press conference in al-Quds, Netanyahu said he had told Russian Deputy Prime Minister Maxim Aki-mov that the occupying regime would continue to fight what he charged as Iran's attempts to deepen its military presence in Syria and transfer weapons to the fighters of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement.

The Zionist prime minister added that he believed that the current dispute between Moscow and Tel Aviv over the recent downing of a Russian Il-20 reconnaissance aircraft off the coast of Syria's western province of Latakia would be resolved.

"I think that with common sense and goodwill we can come to a solution that will allow the continuation of the

good coordination between the Russian and Israeli militaries," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu said at the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday that he would meet Russian President Vladimir Putin soon to discuss coordination.

On October 3, Zionist war minister Avigdor Lieberman expressed Tel Aviv's discontent over Russia's delivery of S-300 air defense systems to Syria, stressing the move will not deter the regime from military operations in the war-ravaged Arab country.

"I cannot say that we are pleased with the deployment of the S-300. However, this is the very topic where we have no way out. There is no way not to make decisions," he said.

Speaking at a Russian Security Council meeting chaired by Putin earlier this month, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said his country had completed the delivery of an S-300 missile system to Syria, irrespective of Zionist authorities' opposition that it will pose a serious "challenge" to the Tel Aviv regime.