

Seven Bahraini Dissidents Jailed, Stripped of Citizenship

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahraini judicial authorities have sentenced seven political dissidents to jail and revoked their nationality as the ruling Al Khalifah regime presses ahead with its heavy-handed clampdown on pro-democracy democracy campaigners in the Persian Gulf kingdom.

The Arabic-language Lualua television network reported that the officials found the defendants guilty of “joining a terrorist group” and involvement in the explosion of a crude oil pipeline in the northern village of Buri, located about 13 kilometers southwest of the capital Manama, last November.

The quintet was sentenced to life in prison over the blast, stripped of their citizenship, and ordered to pay 200,000 Bahraini dinars (\$530,480) in fines.

Two other defendants were handed down ten-year and five-year jail terms respectively.

Lawyer Fatima al-Hawaj said the convicts have strongly dismissed the trumped-up charges leveled against them.

Of the seven defendants, three were tried in absentia. The other four were identified as 23-year-old Fadhel Ali, Anwar al-Mushaima, 24, Mohammed Mahrous, 27, and 23-year-old Adel Saleh.

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



This file picture shows the entrance to the building of Bahrain's Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in the capital Manama.

representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries or got arrested as a result of the Al Khalifah regime's crack-

down.

On March 5, 2017, Bahrain's parliament approved the trial of civilians at military tribunals in a measure blasted by human rights campaigners as being tantamount to imposition of an undeclared martial law countrywide.

Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah ratified the constitutional amendment on April 3 last year.

Milking...

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His remarks prompted Saudi Arabia to threaten to use its economic muscle to respond to any punitive measure but Rai al-Youm, a pan-Arab newspaper based in London, said the kingdom might have to ready itself for new “milking” by the U.S.

Saudi Arabia appears to be increasingly cornered. Britain, France and Germany, which have also tended to prioritize economic ties with Riyadh, issued a joint statement saying they “expect the Saudi government to provide a complete and detailed response”.

The kingdom seems to be taking on each challenge one by one, beginning with Turkey where the macabre incident took place.

The Saudi foreign ministry said King Salman affirmed his country's “solid” relations with Turkey in the phone call with Erdogan, stressing that no one could undermine their relationship.

For his part, Erdogan reportedly expressed his keenness to enhance ties between the two countries.

Turkey's investigation into the disappearance of Khashoggi has reportedly revealed recordings made on his Apple Watch, which synced with his iPhone being carried outside the consulate by Khashoggi's fiancée.

The recordings purportedly indicated that the prominent Saudi journalist was tortured and killed at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, according to the Turkish Sabah daily.

The paper cited “reliable sources in a special intelligence department” as saying that Khashoggi is believed to have turned on the recording feature on the phone before entering the consulate.

The Washington Post, to which Khashoggi contributed as a columnist, has said the Turkish government had told U.S. officials it had audio and video recordings showing how Khashoggi was “interrogated, tortured and then murdered” by a 15-member Saudi security team inside the consulate before his body was dismembered.

Official...

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“Stopping Iran's oil export is impractical,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi told a weekly news conference on Monday. “Certainly, America will not achieve its goal ... our oil exports will continue.”

Iran pumped 3.45 million barrels per day in September, OPEC said last week, down 150,000 bpd from August. Production dropped below 2.7 million bpd under previous sanctions that were lifted following the 2015 nuclear deal.

Hook also said European efforts to create a special-purpose vehicle (SPV) for trade, including oil, with Tehran by November would struggle to gain traction.

“That vehicle sends the wrong message at the wrong time,” he said. “From what we've seen this SPV seems to want to create supply but we don't see much demand for it when you look at well over 100 companies that have already made clear they are leaving.”

Iran on Sunday played down the impact of looming U.S. sanctions on its economy with a senior official saying that the current high oil prices should make up for any fall in oil sales.

“One of the things that the U.S. didn't want to happen but did, was increase in oil prices. The US president thinks that Saudi Arabia and other countries are capable of preventing oil prices from going up by replacing Iran's oil,” Vice President Es'hagh Jahangiri was quoted as saying by IRNA.

“But you see that even without the sanctions [having started], Iran's oil has reached over \$80/b. It means that if we export half of what we used to in the past, we will earn as much,” Jahangiri said in a speech.

In the first five months the current Iranian year, from March 22-August 22, Iran's income from selling crude and oil products reached Rials 538.8 trillion (\$12.89 billion), up 62.4% on the year, IRNA reported quoting central bank data. And this is despite Iran selling lower volumes in the current year than in preceding one.

Iran has sold Rials 422.3 trillion worth of crude oil in the five-month period, up Rials 78.7 trillion on the year.

The value of oil products and gas condensates sold, have, however, fallen by around 36% on the year to Rials 43.2 trillion in the five months, Central Bank data showed.

Jahangiri said that Iran had found ways to work around the looming sanctions.

“The Americans have claimed that they want to bring down Iran's oil exports to zero, but they can't do it because various methods have been found. Private sector and domestic companies have come forward,” he said.

“Even though some of Iran's oil buyers stopped purchasing from us in the recent months ..., we could find new partners to sell our oil to,” he said, adding that Iran was also in talks with its traditional customers to find ways to continue the trade.

Iran's foreign minister Muhammad Javad Zarif has said that Europe, which used to take 40% of the country's exports, would come up with an “oil agreement” to work around the sanctions.

President...

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is faced with an all-out economic war, which is being led from a war room with full precision and hard work,” the Leader said.

In a meeting with the heads of Iran's executive, legislative and judicial branches on October 11, Ayatollah Khamenei called on all branches of the government to join forces to counter the negative impacts of brutal American sanctions against the Iranian nation.

Trump Reiterates:

No Sanctions Deal With Turkey Over Pastor



U.S. President Donald Trump (R) reiterated that he made no deal with Turkey to lift U.S. sanctions in exchange for the release of the American pastor.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday reiterated that he made no deal with Turkey to lift U.S. sanctions in exchange for

the release of an American pastor who had been detained there and who returned to the United States over the weekend.

“We had no deal with Tur-

key,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “I feel much differently about Turkey today than I felt about them two days ago. I have a very good feeling toward Turkey — two days ago, I did not.”

A Turkish court ordered the release of the U.S. evangelical Christian pastor whose imprisonment sparked a row between Ankara and Washington.

The court on Friday sentenced Andrew Brunson to three years and 1-1/2 months in jail on terrorism charges, but released him after taking into account time served and good conduct.

The pastor was detained two years ago and has been under house arrest in the city of Izmir since July.

Brunson, 50, was indicted by a Turkish court on charges of

having links with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant group and the movement of the U.S.-based opposition cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara accuses of having masterminded the July 2016 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Brunson has already denied the charges.

Washington called for Brunson's release and took a series of punitive measures against Turkey over the continued detainment of the evangelical Christian pastor.

The U.S. measures, which include imposing sanctions on Turkish ministers and doubling of steel and aluminum tariffs, have led to a sharp decline in the Turkish currency. Turkey has retaliated by raising tariffs on certain U.S. imports.

'Egypt's Intelligence Chief to Meet With Hamas Leadership'

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel will pay a visit to the Gaza Strip on Thursday where he will meet with the leadership of Hamas movement to discuss the Zionist-Palestinian reconciliation, a source told Sputnik.

“A delegation from the Egyptian intelligence service headed by intelligence chief Brigadier General Abbas Kamel will visit the Gaza Strip on Thursday to meet with the leadership of Hamas movement,” the source said, adding that the sides will discuss the reconciliation agreement with the Zionists.

The source noted that the delegation was also expected to visit the occupied territories but did not specify the goals of the visit.

The long-standing tensions between the occupying regime and Palestine have escalated in late March, when Palestinians

launched protest rallies at the border of Gaza. The border riots were accompanied with launching of burning kites with the aim reportedly to provoke fires in the occupied territories.

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday threatened Hamas with “very powerful blows” if attacks from the Gaza Strip and violence on the border continue.

On Friday, at least seven Palestinian were killed in clashes with Zionist troops near the Gaza Strip border. The regime's military said that the troops had opened fire on a group of the Palestinian militants, who approached an army post and detonated a bomb.

Egypt has been working together with the United Nations to ease tensions between the sides.

Clashes Erupt Among Afghan, Pakistani Forces Along Durand Line

KABUL (Dispatches) – Clashes have erupted among the Afghan and Pakistani borders along the Durand Line close to Spin Boldak district of southern Kandahar province of Afghanistan.

According to the local officials, the latest clash erupted in Saro Sahan area located between Spin Boldak and Shorabak districts,

Khaama Press reported.

The officials further added that clashes erupted due to the circumstances surrounding the fencing works by the Pakistani forces along the Durand Line.

Reports received from the area of the incident suggest that sporadic clashes still continue between the two sides.

The Commander of the 4th Brigade of the Border Forces in Kandahar Colonel Aminullah confirmed that clashes have erupted between the two sides close to Spin Bodak district along the Durand Line.

Col. Aminullah Further added that sporadic clashes still continue but no one has been hurt during the exchange of fire so far.