

Nearly 300 Syrian ‘White Helmets’ Leave for West

AMMAN (Dispatches) – Around 300 Syrian ‘White Helmet’ workers who fled Syria for Jordan last July have left for resettlement in Western countries, a Jordanian foreign ministry statement said.

The kingdom has accepted their evacuation with the help of Zionist troops and Western powers after getting guarantees their stay would be temporary and they would be given asylum in Canada, Germany and Britain, officials said.

The so-called “aid group,” is accused of working with terrorists and launching false-flag gas attacks in Syria. In July, the White Helmets, fleeing advancing Syrian government troops, slipped over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights frontier and into Jordan with the help of Zionist troops and Western powers.

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the time he had helped the evacuation at the request of U.S. President Donald



People walk past Zionist troops as they board a bus during extraction of the so-called “White Helmets” members from the occupied Golan Heights to the occupied territories in this still image taken from video provided by the regime’s army July 22, 2018.

Trump and other Western leaders. The White Helmets have operated in terrorist-held areas in recent years.

The Russian Defense Ministry said on October 10 that chlorine canisters had fallen in the hands of Daesh terrorists after they attacked

the headquarters of the White Helmets and al-Nusra Front terrorists in northern Syria.

Damascus says the so-called volunteer group staged the suspected chemical attack in the town of Douma in Syria’s Eastern Ghouta on April 7. Syrian President

Bashar al-Assad has also described the White Helmets as “a branch of the al-Qaeda and al-Nusra” terrorist groups and a “PR stunt” by the United States, Britain and France.

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 Takfiri terrorist groups wreaking havoc in the country.

Syrian army troops, backed by allied fighters from popular defense groups, have recently made major territorial gains in battles against Daesh and other foreign-sponsored terrorist groups, almost capturing the entire southern part of the country after securing the capital Damascus and other key areas.

The major militant stronghold remains in the northwestern province of Idlib, where government forces were preparing to launch a full-scale military operation.

UN Allows Palestinians to Act More Like Full Member in 2019

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) – The 193-member United Nations General Assembly has allowed the Palestinians to act more like a full UN member state during meetings in 2019 when they will chair the group of 77 developing nations.

The United States, the Zionist regime and Australia voted against the move, which won 146 votes in favor. There were 15 abstentions and 29 countries didn’t vote.

“We cannot support efforts by the Palestinians to enhance their status outside of direct negotiations. The United States does not recognize that there is a Palestinian state,” U.S. Deputy UN Ambassador Jonathan Cohen told the General Assembly.

The Palestinians want to establish a state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and East al-Quds. The Zionist regime captured those territories in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed East al-Quds in a move not recognized internationally.

“We strongly oppose the Palestinians’ election as chair of the G77 as well as this so-called enabling resolution,” he said. “Only UN member states should be entitled to speak and act on behalf of major groups of states at the United Nations.”

In 2012, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly approved the de facto recognition of the sovereign state of Palestine when it upgraded the Palestinian Authority’s UN observer status to non-member state - like the Vatican - from entity.

The status upgrade has allowed them to participate in some General Assembly votes and join some international bodies. The Egyptian-drafted resolution allows them to procedurally operate like a member state when acting on behalf of the G77 and China - making statements, submitting and co-sponsoring proposals and amendments, giving rights of reply and raising points of order.

Zionist Regime Court Weighs Appeal by Barred U.S. Student

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s top court weighed an appeal on Wednesday by a U.S. student facing deportation under a law against foreign pro-Palestinian activists who call for boycotts of the regime.

Lara Alqasem, 22, flew to the occupied territories on Oct. 2 on a study visa but was refused entry by officials who cited her role as president of a small local chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of

Florida. Alqasem’s case has touched off debate in the occupied territories over whether democratic values have been compromised by a 2017 law that bars the entry of foreigners who publicly support boycotts over the regime’s policies toward the Palestinians. Alqasem, who is of Palestinian descent, has been detained at the Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv since being denied entry to the occupied

territories. Al-Quds Hebrew University, where she was due to begin a year-long master’s program on Sunday, also urged the court to reconsider. The three justices hearing the case said they would deliver their ruling in writing. Leora Bechor, another attorney acting for Alqasem said she was hoping for a swift verdict, possibly later in the day. Zionist Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu has said the regime’s stance is similar to other places in the worlds. The regime has said it sees boycott movements not only as an attempt to isolate it over its occupation of territory which Palestinians seek for a state, but also as a campaign for its destruction. Bechor said Alqasem could have opted to fly back to the United States, but had chosen to remain in airport detention to argue her case.

UN Syria Envoy Staffan de Mistura to Step Down

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) – United Nations Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura told the Security Council on Wednesday that he plans to step down at the end of November for personal reasons after more than four years in the role.

He is the third person to fill the job during the more than seven-year war in Syria. His predecessors - former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and veteran Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi - both quit frustrated by global deadlock over how to end the war in the country.

Afghan Election Candidate Killed in Bombing

KABUL (Press TV) – A bombing in southern Afghanistan has killed an Afghan candidate for the upcoming parliamentary elections in the war-torn country, with Taliban terrorists claiming responsibility for the deadly attack. Legislative candidate Abdul Jabar Qahraman was killed in his campaign office in Helmand’s provincial capital, Lashargah, on Wednesday when a bomb planted under his chair detonated. The bombing came just days before election day, on Saturday, killing him and wounding seven other people, said a senior provincial official. Helmand governor’s spokesman Omar Zwak said an investigation had been launched. Qahraman became the 10th electoral candidate assassinated so far in the past two months. Two other candidates have been

kidnapped and four more have suffered injuries in attacks by militants in the country. The Taliban militant group claimed responsibility for the bombing later in the day. Twenty two people were also killed last week in a bombing that targeted an election rally in Afghanistan’s northeastern Takhar Province. Taliban terrorists have called on the Afghans to boycott the long-delayed parliamentary elections across the country, vowing to disrupt the voting. The militants, however, have also declared recently that they are about to resume talks with US officials in the Qatari capital of Doha. US-based newspaper The Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday that Washington’s special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay

Khalilzad had reportedly met with Taliban representatives in Qatar, despite their persisting terror campaign across the country. Local security officials regard the increased attacks by the militants as part of a strategy to establish a strong position to impose their demands if formal peace talks begin. The US invaded Afghanistan in 2001, toppling a Taliban regime in control of most of the country at the time. The administration of US President Donald Trump is struggling to find a way out of the costly conflict as the Taliban have managed to partially reassert themselves in several provinces by taking control of certain areas. Kabul blames the Taliban for the bulk of more than 8,000 deaths in Afghanistan since the start of 2018.

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issues is another method used by the hegemonic system,” he said, urging officials and the elite to be vigilant. Ayatollah Khamenei also touched on the existing economic problems. “There exist some problems regarding people’s livelihood, partly due to currency fluctuations. Yet, overall, the true image of the country is the opposite of what the hegemonic foreigners seek to illustrate about the beloved Iran.” The Leader said portraying a false, negative and disappointing image of the situation in Iran is the most important agenda of the enemy these days.

Claims... (Continued From Page One)

Kardor said Iran was scheduled to sign a new oil contract with a foreign company within two weeks, ISNA reported. He did not provide any additional information. NIOC has lined up 34 working packages valued at \$6 billion to enhance recovery and sustain production from its fields. The projects are being entrusted to domestic companies, with the contracts for Sivand and Esfand fields in the Siri operational area already finalized, Kardor said separately on Tuesday. The two fields are operated by the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), a subsidiary of NIOC. Kardor said Iran will issue bonds in the Iranian month of Aban beginning on Oct. 23 to fund the projects. Negotiations are also underway for three other oil fields within the framework of Iran’s new contract model. Additionally, the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) and Pergus consortium will soon finalize their contract for development of Karanj oil field in Ahvaz, he added. Measures have also been taken to insulate the oil sector against the new sanctions. Those include a plan by NIOC to sell its first crude oil cargo on the Iranian stock market or bourse on October 28. The arrangement will allow private traders to buy Iranian crude to resell into the international market, rather than NIOC selling directly to refiners. Kardor said selling oil on the energy stock market is profitable, but it will not be a venue for speculation. On Oct. 28, NIOC will offer 1 million barrels for sale in 35,000 barrel batches at the base price of \$79.15 per barrel, subject to modifications based on the fluctuations of the market, he said. He made the announcement on the sidelines of the 4th Iranian Petroleum and Energy Club Congress and Exhibition in Tehran, attended by foreign and domestic companies. Azamat Ismagilov, deputy general director for business development and member of management board at Russia’s state-owned oil group Zarubezhneft, said Iran has taken useful steps to increase oil production. Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh told the event that Iran will try to find ways to finance technology and know-how through domestic markets to keep the oil flowing. “The sanctions are certainly harmful but we should try to minimize the harm,” he said. The minister also said three phases of the supergiant South Pars gas field will come online by the end of the current Iranian year on March 20, 2019, each with a capacity to produce 1 billion cubic feet per day of sour gas.

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the crown prince to France in April. They are Major General Mahir Abdul Aziz Muhammad Mutrib and Colonel Badr Lafi Muhammad al-Oteibi. Turkish media published the names and photos of the 15 suspects last week after Turkish sources close to the investigation told Middle East Eye and other media outlets that prosecutors suspected Khashoggi had been killed and dismembered shortly after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October. Several of the suspects arrived at Ataturk airport on commercial flights in the early hours on 2 October, while others arrived on a private jet from Riyadh later that morning. A second private jet landed in Istanbul that afternoon, when three suspects also flew in on commercial flights. The suspects checked into two hotels near to the Saudi consulate but all left the

country within hours of their arrival. Thirteen of the 15 suspects left Istanbul aboard the two private jets on the evening of 2 October, while the final two left on commercial flights in the early hours of 3 October. It took seven minutes for Jamal Khashoggi to die, a Turkish source who has listened in full to an audio recording of the Saudi journalist’s last moments told Middle East Eye. Khashoggi was dragged from the consulate’s office at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and onto the table of his study next door, the Turkish source said. Horrendous screams were then heard by a witness downstairs, the source said. “The consul himself was taken out of the room. There was no attempt to interrogate him. They had come to kill him, the source told MEE. The screaming stopped when Khashoggi was injected with an as yet unknown substance. Salah Muhammad al-Tubaigy, who has been identified as the head of forensic evidence in the Saudi general security department, was one of the 15-member squad who arrived in Ankara earlier that day on a private jet. Tubaigy began to cut Khashoggi’s body up on a table in the study while he was still alive, the Turkish source said. The killing took seven minutes, the source said. As he started to dismember the body, Tubaigy put on earphones and listened to music. He advised other members of the squad to do the same. “When I do this job, I listen to music. You should do (that) too,” Tubaigy was recorded as saying, the source told MEE. A three-minute version of the audio tape has been given to Turkish newspaper Sabah, but they have yet to release it. A Turkish source told the New York Times that Tubaigy was equipped with a bone saw. He is listed as the president of the Saudi Fellowship of Forensic Pathology and a member of the Saudi Association for Forensic Pathology. U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he does not want to walk away from Saudi Arabia despite concerns about a missing Saudi journalist, as pressure mounted on the kingdom to answer Turkish allegations he was killed in Istanbul. “I do not want to do that,” Trump said in an interview on Fox Business Network when asked if the United States would walk away from its Persian Gulf ally. Trump on Tuesday criticized rapidly mounting global condemnation of Saudi Arabia over the mystery of the missing journalist, warning of a rush to judgment and echoing the Saudis’ request for patience.

IRGC: Border... (Continued From Page 2)

four of them two months later after mediation by local clerics. Pakistan said Tuesday its military forces were working closely with Iranian troops to locate the kidnapped border guards. The announcement came hours after Tehran urged Islamabad to cooperate in securing their freedom. “No effort will be spared to assist our Iranian brothers in finding the Iranian guards,” the Pakistani foreign ministry said in a statement issued late on Tuesday. “Both militaries, under a joint mechanism established since last year, are working to ascertain the whereabouts of Iranian guards.” “We expect Pakistan to confront these terrorist groups that are supported by some regional states and immediately release the kidnapped Iranian forces,” the media wing of the IRGC said. The remote Iranian border region where Tuesday’s incident occurred has been the scene of clashes involving Iranian forces and terrorists as well as drug traffickers. Pakistan and Iran share a more than 900-kilometer-long border. In recent months, the Pakistani military has deployed thousands of additional troops on the border to boost security. Islamabad previously has captured and handed over to Tehran leaders and members of anti-Iran groups.

IRGC Kills... (Continued From Page 2)

of its missiles, and now the country is the top missile power in the region, seventh or eighth in the world, and is even ahead of North Korea, he added. “In drone industry, we’re one of the world’s top 15 powers, even ahead of Russia and China. We also have good capabilities in air defense, and enjoy certain equipment that is more advanced than that of Russia, France, China, and the UK,” Hajizadeh said.