

Iraqi Hashd al-Shaabi Says Daesh Leader Killed in Diyala

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – An Iraqi prominent leader of paramilitary Hashd al-Shaabi forces says the paramilitary troops killed the provincial leader of Daesh terrorist group in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala.

"The military leader of Daesh organization in Diyala, known as Abu Doha, was killed by our forces," Hadi al-Ameri, head of the Badr organization, said in a brief statement.

"This operation is to strengthen security and stability in the province, and we will go on to achieve security," Ameri said.

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# Zionist Regime's Warplanes Pound Gaza

## 'Yemen Facing World's Worst Hunger Crisis'



The mother of a Palestinian, who was killed in a Zionist airstrike, reacts as her hand is stained with her child's blood at a hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, October 17, 2018.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's warplanes have carried out fresh aerial assaults on Gaza in yet another act of aggression against the blockaded coastal enclave, killing a Palestinian youth.

Gaza residents said the jets targeted three locations throughout the Gaza Strip on Wednesday. The Health Ministry in Gaza identified

the victim as Naji al-Za'aneen, 25. Several Gazans were also wounded in the strikes by the occupying regime, said the Gazaalan news website.

Zionist war minister Avigdor Lieberman ordered to shut down the between Gaza crossings.

Lieberman instructed the military to shut down the Erez Crossing, the

only pedestrian passage between the besieged Palestinian enclave and the occupied territories, and the Kerem Shalom Crossing, a passage for goods, said a statement released by the war ministry.

Lieberman also imposed further restrictions on the allowed fishing zone in Gaza.

A medical official told Israel Ra-

dio that three people had been taken to hospital with injuries after the alleged rocket attacks from Gaza.

The Zionist military ordered schools to remain closed in Beer-sheba on Wednesday. Studies were also delayed until 10 a.m. local time in areas near the Gaza Strip.

In a joint statement, however, Palestinian resistance groups denied any involvement in the alleged rocket fire from Gaza.

The groups vowed to continue Gaza protests until the siege by the regime on the Palestinian region would be terminated.

They also expressed their full preparedness to confront Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

Palestinian Popular Resistance Committees Spokesman Abu Mujahid told al-Mayadeen TV channel that the regime is looking for pretexts to attack, and that resistance groups reserve the right to respond to the regime's assaults.

He also warned that there is a limit to the patience of Palestinian resistance groups.

The Tel Aviv regime carries out regular attacks on the blockaded coastal sliver under the pretext of hitting positions belonging to Hamas, the movement which runs the Palestinian territory.



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GENEVA (Dispatches) – Yemen is currently facing the world's worst hunger crisis, with some 8 million people considered to be on the brink of famine, a World Food Programme (WFP) official told journalists.

Herve Verhoosel, spokesperson for the WFP, told the press briefing that if the situation persisted, there could be an additional 3.5 million people in need of regular food assistance.

"Some 570,000 people had fled Hudaidah since June, the currency had plummeted and the cost of food had risen by a third in one year," he said.

Since 2017, he said, WFP had increased its assistance to Yemen by 25 percent despite a difficult security situation, limited access and frequent attacks, to distribute food aid to 8 million inhabitants a month.

According to him, several boats are on their way to the various now functioning ports, but access to the 51,000 tons of grain stored in silos on the Red Sea, which could help a further 3.7 million people for a month, remained blocked.

Meanwhile, the Legal Center for Rights and Developments in Yemen says the ongoing Saudi-led military campaign against the impoverished and conflict-plagued Arab country has claimed the lives

of more than 15,000 civilians.

The center, in a statement, announced that the aggression has resulted in the death of 15,185 civilians, including 3,527 children and 2,277 women.

A total of 23,822 civilians, among them 3,526 children and 2,587 women, have also sustained injuries, and are currently suffering from the lack of medicine, medical supplies and poor treatment due to the crippling Saudi siege.

The center further noted that the Saudi military aggression has also caused the death of nearly 2,200 Yemenis from cholera.

It highlighted that aerial assaults being conducted by the Saudi-led alliance have resulted in the destruction of 15 airports and 14 ports, and damaged 2,559 roads and bridges in addition to 781 water storage facilities, 191 power stations and 426 telecommunications towers.

The statement went on to say that the incessant Saudi-led bombardment campaign has destroyed more than 421,911 houses, 930 mosques, 888 schools, 327 hospitals and health facilities plus 38 media organizations, halted the operation of 4,500 schools and left more than 4 million people internally displaced.

## 'UAE Hired U.S. Hit Squad for Assassinations in Yemen'

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) – The United Arab Emirates has hired a U.S. security contractor to start an Israeli-style targeted killing program in Yemen in 2015 against figures undesired by Abu Dhabi, a report reveals.

U.S. media outlet BuzzFeed carried the report, identifying the U.S. company as Delaware-headquartered Spear Operations Group.

"There was a targeted assassination program in Yemen," said Abraham Golan, the Hungarian-Zionist founder of the group.

"I was running it. We did it. It was sanctioned by the UAE within the coalition," he added, referring to a Saudi Arabian-led coalition, which has been attack-

ing Yemen since March 2015.

The UAE named the group's first target as Anssaf Ali Mayo, a local leader of al-Islah, a political party branded by the emirates as a "terrorist group."

"It was the first attack," an al-Islah spokesperson told BuzzFeed, recalling the date it got underway as December 29, 2015.

Footage recorded by surveillance aircraft have shown the moment of the attack, which saw the squad attaching an explosive device to the door of the party's headquarters in the Yemeni port city of Aden.

It shows the mercenaries running into UAE military vehicles, which had been escorting

them, to flee. The bomb goes off and then another one, "booby trapped" to their SUV "to disguise the source of the first explosion," is set off as the vehicles are seen speeding out of the area.

The attack, though, failed to kill the politician, who had left the building 10 minutes before, said a party official, who added that no one had died in the assault.

"The bombing was the first salvo in a string of unsolved assassinations that killed more than two dozen of the group's leaders," BuzzFeed said.

"As 2016 progressed, those watching the deteriorating situation in Yemen began to notice

that members of al-Islah, and other clerics in Aden, were dropping dead at an alarming pace," the outlet reported.

Meanwhile, Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) has been training Saudi Arabian air force crew over the past four years as part of a secret deal, a report says.

The Daily Mail can disclose that 111 RAF personnel have been seconded to BAE Systems to train Royal Saudi Air Force aircrew and provide engineering support, including 21 sent during the first five months of this year.

In 2015, 34 RAF personnel were sent there, with 30 the following year and 26 in 2017, the report added.

## Syria Approves Aid Delivery to Remote Camp on Jordan Border

AMMAN (Dispatches) – The Syrian government gave approval for the UN to deliver aid next week to thousands of civilians stranded near a U.S. garrison on the Jordanian-Syrian border, aid workers and camp officials said on Wednesday.

A siege earlier this month by the Syrian army and a block on aid by Jordan has depleted food at the camp in the southeastern Syrian area of Rukban. This led to at least a dozen deaths in the past week among its over 50,000 inhabitants, mainly women and children, residents and UN sources told Reuters.

The United Nations contacted local officials in the camp to say they had received authorization from Damascus to send an aid convoy on Oct. 25.

The Syrian army has tightened its siege of the camp, which is also near the Iraqi border, pre-

venting smugglers and traders from delivering food. Jordan, which agreed early this year to allow a one-off aid shipment, has said since it should not be held responsible as the camp was not on its territory and all future provisions must come from UN stores inside Syria.

In the last three years, tens of thousands of people have fled to the camp from Daesh-held parts of Syria that were being targeted by Russian and U.S.-led coalition air strikes.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin says a deal brokered by Russia and Turkey, which aims to create a demilitarized zone in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib and has so far held off a government offensive on the last major terrorist stronghold in the country, was going ahead, despite foreign-sponsored militants failing to leave the zone the

day before.

"According to the information we are receiving from our military, the memorandum is being implemented and the military are satisfied with the way the Turkish side is working," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"Of course one cannot expect everything to go smoothly with absolutely no glitches, but the work is being carried out," he added.

Under a deal reached following a meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi on September 17, all militants in the demilitarized zone, which surrounds Idlib and also parts of the adjacent provinces of Aleppo and Hama, must pull out heavy arms, and terrorist groups must withdraw by October 15.

### Report:

## Zionist, Saudi Army Chiefs Meet in Washington

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's media say the regime's military chief Gadi Eizenkot has held talks with his Saudi counterpart, major General Fayyad bin Hamid Raqed al-Ruwaili, in Washington as Tel Aviv moves to make its secret ties with Persian Gulf Arab governments public.

Kan public broadcaster reported the two sides had discussed several regional issues, including Iran, during their meeting on the sidelines of the Counter-Violent Extremist Organizations conference for military commanders, in the U.S.

In addition to Ruwaili, Eizenkot had also met with his counterparts from several Arab states on the sidelines of the same event, the report added.

The meeting between Eizenkot and Ruwaili was the first publicized talks between the two military chiefs.

After his first participation in

the event, Eizenkot made a rare interview last November with the Saudi-owned Elaph online newspaper, where he expressed Tel Aviv's readiness to share intelligence with Riyadh in their joint efforts to confront Tehran.

"We are ready to exchange experiences with Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab countries and exchange intelligence to confront Iran," he said, noting that "there are many shared interests between us and Saudi Arabia."

The Zionist regime and Saudi Arabia have no diplomatic relations, but they are widely believed to have secret liaisons. Latest reports say the two regimes are even working behind the scenes to establish formal contact.

Critics say Saudi Arabia's flirtation with Israel would undermine global efforts to isolate Tel Aviv and affect the Palestinian cause in general.