

# U.S.-Led Coalition Kills Civilians in Syria's Dayr al-Zawr



The file photo shows smoke following an airstrike on the western frontline of Raqqah in Syria on July 15, 2017.

**DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Syrian Foreign Ministry has reacted to the latest reports of U.S.-led airstrikes in Dayr al-Zawr killing civilians, calling for a probe in a letter to the United Nations.**

The Syrian Foreign Ministry has accused the U.S.-Led Co-

alition of violating international law and killing civilians in a letter to the UN, saying that the U.S. is not fighting terrorism in Syria, SANA reported.

Damascus has urged the UN to launch an investigation into a recent deadly airstrike carried out by the U.S.-led coalition on

as-Sousa and al-Bubadran in the eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr, where 62 people were killed and dozens injured, the state-run news agency SANA reported.

The Syrian outlet cited its sources as saying the Western coalition was using scorched-earth tactics in the region by

targeting homes and places of worship.

The reported strike is the second U.S.-led coalition attack this month that has allegedly resulted in the deaths of civilians. On October 18, a Syrian military source told Sputnik that the coalition had carried out a series of airstrikes on civilian homes in the Syrian province of Dayr al-Zawr. The broadcaster, however, did not specify the exact number of civilians, who had been killed or wounded due to the strike.

Shortly before that, the coalition reportedly struck the town of Hajin in Dayr al-Zawr province using banned white phosphorus. Commenting on the reports, the Pentagon told Sputnik that all weapons that are being used in the Syrian campaign comply with the Law of Armed Conflict.

The strikes took place amid the tense situation in the region. Thus, Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier that Daesh terrorists had recently begun expanding their presence on the left bank of the Euphrates river in Syria, taking nearly 700 people hostage, including citizens of the United States and European countries.

## Palestinian Foreign Ministry: Israel Moving From Apartheid to Fascist Regime



A Zionist trooper fires a rubber bullet toward Palestinian protesters during clashes in the village of Kfar Qaddum, near Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, February 10, 2017.

**RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Foreign Ministry on Saturday accused the Zionist regime of anchoring apartheid through legislations that terrorize critics.**

The ministry said in a statement that an Israeli draft law that would impose stiff prison term on activists in the anti-Zionist boycott movement seeks to terrorize the regime's critics.

An Israeli ministerial committee for legislation is going to discuss on Sunday a bill proposed by Likud members calling for imposing between seven and 10-year prison sentence on anyone that is active in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement and calls for boycotting the Zionist regime culturally and economically.

"The occupying power (the Zionist regime) is quickly moving from an apartheid state to a fascist state," said the Foreign Ministry statement, adding that the regime is seeking to terrorize critics through legislating laws that clearly violate international law.

The statement condemned what it described as "discriminatory" laws, particularly the recently passed so-called "nation-state law", accusing the regime of "violating the principles of human rights."

The ministry urged "specialized

regional and international organizations to raise its voice to expose the flagrant violations of human rights principles, top most being the freedom of expression."

In a latest development, a U.S. student's court victory against the Zionist regime's attempt to bar her from the country may prove only a short reprieve in the "battle" over a law targeting some pro-Palestinian activists, one of her lawyers said on Friday.

Lara Alqasem, 22, was allowed out of Tel Aviv airport on Thursday after the Zionist regime's supreme court overturned her Oct. 2 detention there on suspicion of being active in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

The case has touched off a debate in the occupied territories over the 2017 law that bars the entry of foreigners who publicly support boycotts of the regime over its policies toward the Palestinians. The Zionist regime's cabinet slammed the court ruling as short-sighted.

But a lawyer for Alqasem, who is of Palestinian descent and a former president of a small local chapter of the Students for Justice in Palestine group at the University of Florida, hailed the ruling as "an incredible day for Israeli democracy".

## Daesh Command Center in Iraq's Diyala Reduced to Rubble

**BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Pro-government fighters from Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units have managed to completely destroy the command center of the Daesh terrorist group in the country's eastern province of Diyala, A high-ranking security official says.**

Chief of Diyala's provincial police, Faisal al-Abadi told Arabic-language Baghdad Today news agency on Saturday "Daesh sustained substantial losses this year, and most of its commanders who were members of the so-called War Council were killed during military operations in Diyala."

He added, "Daesh's War

Council was completely destroyed in the province."

Meanwhile, Daesh terrorists have shot and killed the imam of a mosque in Iraq's western province of Anbar after he delivered a sermon in condemnation of the extremists, and demanded an all-out campaign against them.

Qutri al-Obeidi of Hashd al-Sha'abi forces told al-Maalomah news website that Daesh terrorists stormed into Mounir Okab al-Duleimi's house in the town of Rutbah, and opened fire at him.

Obeidi added that investigations showed Duleimi's murder came in the wake of his Friday sermon.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi, who is also the commander-in-chief of Iraqi forces, pledged on June 30 to hunt down Daesh terrorists across Iraq after a series of attacks and abductions carried out by the terrorist group.

"We will chase the remaining cells of terrorism in their hideouts and we will kill them, we will chase them everywhere, in the mountains and the desert," Abadi said.

Abadi declared the end of military operations against Daesh in the Arab country on December 9, 2017.

On July 10 that year, the Iraqi prime minister formally

declared victory over Daesh in Mosul, which served as the terrorists' main urban stronghold in the conflict-ridden Arab country.

In the run-up to Mosul's liberation, Iraqi army soldiers and volunteer Hashd al-Sha'abi fighters had made sweeping gains against Daesh.

Iraqi forces took control of eastern Mosul in January 2017 after 100 days of fighting, and launched the battle in the west on February 19 last year.

Daesh began a terror campaign in Iraq in 2014, overrunning vast swathes in lightning attacks.

## Syrians in Occupied Golan Burn Israeli Election Ballots

**GOLAN HEIGHTS (Dispatches) – Syrians in the occupied Golan Heights have demonstrated and burned the Zionist regime's election ballots in a symbolic dismissal of local council elections and "a policy of judaization" administered by the Zionist regime.**

The demonstrators, who described the elections as an effort by the occupying regime to legitimize its occupation, raised Syrian flags while gathering in a central town square in Majdal Shams, the most populated of four Syrian communities in Golan, and vowed to spread demonstrations to the other communities in ongoing protests until the end of this month.

Political activist and former prisoner Bashar

al-Maqt addressed the crowd, asserting that the election along with any other measure by the regime is legally void due to the illegal occupation. Maqt further called for international organizations to put an end to the racist judaization policy maintained by Tel Aviv.

Other protesters chanted in support for the integrity of the Syrian state, rejecting any compromise of their national identity.

"The Golan will remain Syrian and Arab land in the face of the occupation and its supporters," said a young protester named Emille Masoud.

Some local media outlets have brought up the symbolic significance of the burned ballots, claiming that the move is reminiscent of when

Syrians in the occupied land burned Israeli identification cards handed out by occupation forces in 1982.

The protests come two weeks after Golan's Druze community organized a similar act of defiance against Israeli authority, waiving large Syrian flags and portraits of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad towards Syrian soldiers on the other side of the border.

The Syrian communities in the Golan fell under Israeli occupation as a result of the 1967 Third Arab-Israeli War. The territory was officially annexed in 1981 by Tel Aviv in a move that was never recognized by the international community.

## Six Hostages Freed From Daesh in Syria

**BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Six hostages were freed on Saturday from Daesh, which has held several women and children captive since it attacked Syria's Sweida city three months ago, state media and a monitor said.**

Daesh terrorists staged multiple attacks in Sweida and overran nearby villages in southwestern Syria on July 25, killing more than 200 people, many of them civilians.

Sweida, which is under state rule, has a mainly Druze community. Druze authorities and the Daesh have held negotiations for the release of the hostages.

Syrian state news agency SANA said two women and four children returned home on Saturday after being kidnapped from a village east of Sweida city.

"As a result of the army's siege on the terrorists, and efforts by

the concerned entities, six of the 29 hostages were freed, and the rest will be freed very soon," SANA cited Sweida Governor Amer al-Eshi as saying.

Daesh terrorists were holding at least 16 children among its captives in the Sweida desert and had beheaded one hostage, Human Rights Watch said in August.

Syrian government forces, backed by Russia and Iran, have been battling the terrorists in a small Daesh enclave northeast of Sweida city.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based war monitoring group, said the terrorists released the first group of hostages after talks with local authorities.

Pro-government forces had amassed heavily around the Daesh pocket to pressure the terrorists, it said.