

Five Sudanese Mercenaries Killed in Hudaydah

SANAA (Dispatches) -- At least five Saudi-paid Sudanese soldiers were killed when Yemeni army troops and fighters from allied Popular Committees launched an attack in the country's strategic western province of Hudaydah on Saturday. A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Saudi mercenaries were traveling on board two military vehicles in Al-Tuhayt district, when they came under attack. Earlier this month, Houthi spokesman Muhammad Abdul-Salam referred to the deaths of several Sudanese mercenaries in Hudaydah, saying they were the "victims of their government being on the payroll."

Several Journalists Injured in Zionist Fire

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) -- Several Palestinian and international journalists were injured Saturday by Israeli forces in the central occupied West Bank, where they were protesting the Tel Aviv regime's violence against members of the press in the occupied territories. Israeli forces fired tear gas to disperse journalist gathered at the Qalandiya checkpoint north of Jerusalem Al-Quds on Saturday afternoon. Head of the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate Nasser Abu Bakr was among the wounded.

Viewpoint

Iraq, Iran Further Cement Fraternal Ties to US Detriment

Best Animation Award Goes to ‘Empty View’ at Strasburg Festival

Four Iranian Players at AFC Fans’ Best XI

U.S. Airstrikes Kill 40 People in Syria’s Dayr al-Zawr

A Blissful Marriage

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“Marriage is part of my Sunnah and whoever disregards it is not from us.”

This is one of the famous sayings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), and as the Most Excellent Exemplar for the human race, he himself set the precedent for a healthy and morally sound marriage in order to build a virtuously stable family, long before God’s formal commandment to him to publicly proclaim his universal mission of Islam, as the Last and Greatest of all Prophets.

It is an undeniable fact that unlike the life of the prophets of the past, each and every single aspect of the life of the Seal of Messengers occurred in the full limelight of history – thanks to the pride of place even in pre-Islamic society of the noble monotheist Bani Hashem Clan into which he was born as a direct descendant of the Prophets Abraham (AS) and Ishmael (AS).

The blessed day was the 10th of Rabi al-Awwal, when the parentless, 25-year old son of Abdullah (AS) and Amena (SA) was married in a grand ceremony that caught the attention of all the people of Mecca and beyond, since after three days of Walima meals organized by Abu Taleb, they were fed for three months by the family of the wealthy and virtuous monotheist 28-year-old virgin, Khadijat-al-Kubra (SA), who had chosen him as her husband by spurning the offers of the rich and powerful Arabs of Jahiliyya.

It was a marriage made in heaven. The groom was the noblest man of his time, and the bride was an equally pure and chaste lady, although their social status vastly differed – the husband being a poor person, while the wife the richest lady of the land. This was the first marriage for both of them, who had never been attracted before to any member of the opposite gender. Neither he wedded her for her wealth, nor did she marry him because of lack of suitors, or for improving his pecuniary status. What attracted them to each other was virtue, honesty, integrity of character, and above all shared monotheist faith in the One and Only Creator in an Arabia submerged in polytheism and sins.

As the best of creation, and as the most perfect offspring of Adam and Eve – his light had descended, generation after generation, through spotlessly clean wombs and pristinely pure backs – he had to marry the most chaste lady of his times, so as to start the pristinely pure progeny of all times, whose unsullied cleanliness God would eventually vouch in the holy Qur’an:

“Allah desires to keep away uncleanness from you Ahl al-Bayt and preserve you thoroughly purified.” (33:33)

Acclaimed as the **Tahera** or the Chaste for remaining virtuously single so far, the **Nikah** or nuptials of the 28-year old lady destined to be the **Omm al-Momineen** or the One and Only Mother of all True Believers, was solemnized by that primordial Muslim, the Prophet’s beloved uncle and guardian, Abu Taleb, who along with his wife, Fatema bint Asad, had brought up his orphaned nephew as his own son.

The two were the ideal made-for-each-other pair, and were blessed with a son named Qassem, from whom the Prophet’s agnomen (**kunya**) of Abu’l-Qassem (Father of Qassem) became universally famous for all time.

God Almighty, however, decided to take away the soul of the infant. As a form of trial, God granted the pair another son, Abdullah, who also died in infancy. Both husband and wife were content with God’s Will, because the All-Wise certainly had His Own Plans for ensuring eternity for the progeny of His Most Chosen Servant (al-Mustafa). It was thus Divine Providence that five years after this blessed marriage, when Abu Taleb was blessed with his youngest child, son Ali (AS), the future Prophet and his loyal wife decided to take him under their care.

Fifteen years after marriage, when God formally entrusted the message of Islam to her husband, the loyal monotheist wife immediately testified to his mission as the Prophet. So firm was the faith of First Lady of Islam that Archangel Gabriel conveyed to the Prophet a special message for her, saying: *“O Messenger of Allah! When Khadija comes to you, greet her from Allah and give her the good tiding of a house made of precious stones in Paradise.”*

Another greatest blessing for the pair, and an everlasting one indeed – both in the life of this transient world and in the Hereafter – was God’s granting to them of the blessed daughter named Fatema (SA) whom the Holy Qur’an has hailed as “Kowthar” or the “Fountain of Perpetual Abundance”.

The Prophet never took another spouse during the 25 years of marital bliss with Hazrat Khadija (SA), who spent all her wealth to feed, clothe, and shelter the persecuted neo Muslim community, to the extent that when she passed away there was hardly anything left for her only surviving child, daughter Fatemat az-Zahra (SA) – the Noblest Lady of all times.

The unrivalled status of the One and Only Omm al-Momineen is crystal clear for all Muslims, who very well know that whenever Islam was in danger, it was the progeny of Khadija that rose to the occasion by giving it the kiss of life through their lifeblood – with Karbala and the martyrdom of her grandson, Imam Husain (AS), being the supreme example.

It is also needless to say that the Redeemer of mankind, the Awaited Imam Mahdi (AS), who will fill the world with justice, is the direct offspring of the Immaculate Khadija (SA).

Years after her death, when the middle-aged widowed Prophet had taken several wives out of social necessity in order to break the taboos of the days of ignorance, one of his spouses (her name is mentioned in **Sahih Bukhari** and other texts and need not be repeated here) objected to his constant remembrance of Khadija (SA). The Prophet was upset and replied:

“By God, the Almighty did not grant me a better wife than her. She believed in me when the people used to mock at me and she acknowledged me when the people denied me. She shared her wealth and property with me and she bore me children which I was not destined to have through other women.”

These words of the Prophet clearly specify that none of these ladies, whatever their degree of faith or lack of it in some of them, were never considered by the Seal of Prophets to be on a par with the beloved Khadija, whose memory he used to cherish till the end of his life – as part of his undeniable **Sunnah** and **Seerah** (practice and behaviour).

Could there be a better precedent set by the Prophet than his marriage to Khadija (SA); his respect for her during the quarter century of marital bliss; his cherishing of her memory till the end of his life as one of the Four Noblest Ladies of all time; his profound affection for her daughter Fatema (SA), son-in-law Imam Ali (AS) and grandsons Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS); and his emphasis on her Immaculate Progeny, the Ahl al-Bayt, as the evergreen tree of divine guidance for the whole Ummah, including his Sahaba or companions?

Leader Tells Iraqi President in Tehran: Stand Tall Against Enemies



Iraqi President Barham Salih, second right, meets with Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khamenei, with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, third right, also in attendance in Tehran, Nov. 17, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – **Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Saturday that the way to overcome problems and confront the conspiracies of the vindictive enemies is to safeguard national unity in Iraq.**

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with Iraqi

President Barham Salih who said earlier that he had come to Tehran with “a clear message” to further boost bilateral ties after new U.S. sanctions on Iran.

The Leader said Iraq has to “correctly identify enemies and friends, stand up to the blatant enemy, rely on the capabilities of its youths and

consolidate relations with religious scholars”.

Ayatollah Khamenei praised deep-rooted and historical relations between the Iraqi and Iranian nations, saying the bond between the two nations is matchless which was manifested in the “great walk of Arba’een”.

The Leader touched on the participation of over 2 million Iranian pilgrims in the walk this month, saying upon their return, the hearts of all Iranian pilgrims were filled with gratitude to the Iraqi nation for its hospitality and generosity.

“Now that after eras of the rule of arrogance, the Iraqi nation owns the country and enjoys independence, the right to vote and self-determination, some spiteful governments seek to deprive the Iraqi people of enjoying this great victory and achievement and deny Iraq and this region peace,” the Leader said.

“The only solution in confronting such conspiracies is to safeguard and strengthen unity among Iraqi groups including Arabs, Kurds, Shias and Sunnis,” he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei said some states within or outside the region are very hostile to Islam, adding they interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq.

“These enemies should be resisted powerfully, and with regard to resisting against the blatant and impudent enemy, no compromise should be made.”

Regarding mutual cooperation between Iran and Iraq, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “The officials of

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Hamas: Missiles to Hit Tel Aviv Next

GAZA (Dispatches) -- **Hamas’s leader in the Gaza Strip Yahya Sinwar has warned the occupying regime of Israel “not to test us again,” saying the next rocket barrage from the territory would target Tel Aviv and other central cities with a potency that would “surprise” the Zionist regime.**

He also warned that the next time Zionist troops entered the Strip, they would only return through a prisoner exchange for “thousands of prisoners.”

Speaking at a ceremony honoring the seven resistance fighters martyred during a firefight on Sunday with Zionist undercover special forces, Sinwar pulled

out a handgun with a silencer which he said belonged to one of the special forces troops.

One Israel officer, identified only as Lt. Col. Mem, was killed and another injured in the botched operation.

Sinwar mocked the occupying regime of Israel for assuming its decision to allow fuel and Qatari funds into Gaza before the latest flareup would prevent his group from launching a large-scale attack against the Jewish state.

“What did the Israeli leadership think when it allowed in fuel and Qatari funds?

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One Dead, Dozens Injured in Protests Across France

PARIS (AP) -- **A protester was killed and 47 others were injured during roadblocks set up around France to demonstrate against rising fuel taxes, a new challenge to embattled President Emmanuel Macron.**

The protester was killed when a driver caught in traffic accelerated in a panic at Pont-de-Beauvoisin, near Chambéry, said Louis Laugier, the prefect, or top state official, in the eastern Savoie region. According to various French media reports, the protesters reportedly knocked on her car as she tried to take her daughter to a hospital. An investigation was opened.

Police said that three of the 47 injured in separate incidents at the protests are in serious condition, according to the ministry. Officials said that 24 people have been detained and 17 held for questioning.

The Interior Ministry said that around 125,000 protesters were involved in about 2,000 demonstrations around France.

The Interior Ministry said security forces used tear gas in several places to unblock major routes, notably at the access road to the Mont Blanc tunnel where about 30 canisters were fired.

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CIA Concludes MBS Ordered Khashoggi’s Murder

WASHINGTON (Middle East Eye) -- **The CIA has concluded in an assessment that Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman ordered the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul last month.**

The U.S. agency said it had collected multiple sources of intelligence indicating that the crown prince, known as MBS, issued the instructions for the killing, the Washington Post reported on Friday.

The New York Times said the CIA had come to the conclusion based on MBS’s control of Saudi Arabia and had reinforced its assessment “with two sets of crucial communications: in-

tercepts of the crown prince’s calls in the days before the killing, and calls by the kill team to a senior aide to the crown prince”.

A senior Turkish source told Middle East Eye that Turkey had been officially informed about the CIA assessment a few days ago and that the CIA pledged to the Turks that this was their bipartisan, independent assessment.

The agency’s conclusion complicates President Donald Trump’s efforts to preserve U.S. ties with one of the closest American allies in the region.

Speaking on Saturday, Trump said he had not yet been briefed on the CIA’s conclusions, but

that he would speak with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the CIA about the issue later in the day. “We haven’t been briefed yet,” Trump said.

“We will be talking with the CIA later and lots of others. I’ll be doing that while I’m on the plane. I’ll be speaking also with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.”

Trump also said he was not considering extraditing a U.S.-based cleric to Turkey as part of an effort to ease pressure on Saudi Arabia.

“No, it’s not under consideration,” Trump told reporters when asked about the potential extradition

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