

Egypt Police Kill Two Gunmen Behind November Attack

CAIRO (Reuters) – Egyptian police killed two gunmen who carried out last month's attack on a bus carrying Christians in Minya governorate to the south of Cairo, the interior ministry said on Saturday. Police, helped by the military, found the gunmen in Assiut governorate, which lies to the south of Minya, it said in a statement. They were in possession of three automatic rifles, one shotgun and an unspecified amount of ammunition. Security forces also found one of the vehicles used in the Nov. 2 attack, which killed at least seven Christians who were returning from baptizing a child at a Coptic monastery in central Egypt.

Thought for Today

People in this world are like travelers whose journey is going on though they are asleep. (Life's journey is going on though men may not feel it).

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Russia Has Undeniable Evidence of Terrorists' Chemical Shelling of Aleppo



A woman receives oxygen through respirators following a chemical attack on the neighborhood of al-Khalidiya in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo on November 24, 2018.

MOSCOW (Dispatches)—U.S. State Department's remarks made on Aleppo is an attempt to whitewash actions of terrorists in Idlib, Russian Defense Ministry has said in a statement.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the supply schedule of chemical weapons by the Western special services to the terrorists in Syria is synchronized with State Department's statements.

State Department Spokesperson Robert Palladino had earlier claimed in a press release that the forces allied to the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad likely used tear gas against civilians in Aleppo last month.

"The statement by the U.S. State Department is nothing more than an attempt to whitewash the international terrorists operating in

Idlib and associated with the White Helmets pseudo-rescuers, who have put their Western patrons in a bad spotlight with their provocation," the Russian military said in a statement.

"The Russian side has irrefutable evidence of the use of munitions filled with toxic agents against the civilian population on November 24, 2018 in Aleppo," the statement stressed.

The Russian Defense Ministry

further said the "hysterical" U.S. statement is meant to divert the public attention from the killings of civilians by the U.S. military in eastern Syria and hinder an "unbiased investigation" into the Aleppo attack by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

According to Syrian media reports, more than 100 people were injured as a result of the November 24 attack, which is believed to have been launched from an area controlled by al-Nusra Front terrorists in Idlib Province.

Immediately after the attack, Damascus called on the OPCW to send a fact-finding mission to Aleppo.

Russian experts say they have recovered samples of soil and fragments of buildings to determine the toxic agent used in the assault.

The Russian Defense Ministry said over the past six months it has been informing the public about deliveries of toxic chemicals to terrorists and the White Helmets by the security services of Western governments.

Syria surrendered its entire chemical stockpile in 2013 to a mission led by the OPCW and the UN.

The U.S. has already attacked Syrian army and government positions following alleged chemical spread which Washington has blamed on Damascus.

General Dunford: U.S. Should Stay in Afghanistan or Face Another 9/11



General Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff says U.S. forces must remain in the bogged-down Afghanistan campaign, or terrorists might get back on their feet and launch another 9/11-scale attack on American people.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. forces must remain in the bogged-down Afghanistan campaign, or terrorists might get back on their feet and launch another 9/11-scale attack on American people, General Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff says.

Speaking at an event organized by The Washington Post, Dunford said that American military presence in Afghanistan is essential to contain terrorists who otherwise would regroup and take revenge on the U.S.

"Were we not to put the pressure on al-Qaeda, ISIS (Daesh) and other groups in the region we are putting on today, it is our assessment that, in a period of time their capability would reconstitute, and they have today the intent, and in the future, they would have the capability to do what we saw on 9/11," Dunford claimed when asked about a potential withdrawal of the U.S. military contingent from the war-ravaged country.

Dunford stressed that his top priority is not to ensure security and stability in Afghanistan, which has been lying in shambles as a result of the 17-year-long war, but to "make recommendations for the deployment of military force that protects the American people, the homeland and our allies."

"Leaving Afghanistan in my judgment would give the terrorist groups the space with which to conduct operations against the American homeland and its allies," Dunford said.

Almost 3,000 people were killed on September 11, 2001 when 19 hijackers – 15 of them Saudis – with alleged ties to al-Qaeda terrorist group flew two passenger aircraft into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and a third plane into the Pentagon building in northern Virginia.

Following the attacks, the United States – under then President George W. Bush's – and its allies invaded Afghanistan on October 7, 2001 as part of a so-called war on terror.

After more than 17 years, however, the foreign troops are still in the country because the operation has failed to defeat Taliban militants.

The war paved the way for the Daesh terrorist group, which is mainly active in Syria and Libya, to develop a base in Afghanistan as well.

Last month, Dunford admitted that the Taliban "are not losing" in Afghanistan and much more needs to be done to bring peace to the war-torn country.

He said back then that there was no "military solution" to peace in Afghanistan.

This is while U.S. President Donald Trump's strategy for the long-running war revolves around bringing more troops and use them to force a political resolution to militant groups.

The new strategy, unveiled last year, announced an increase in U.S. troop levels, bringing the total number of foreign foot soldiers in the country to about 14,000.

Mistaking for Hezbollah Fighters

Zionist Regime Fires at Lebanese Army Patrol

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Zionist troops at the Lebanese border opened fire at Lebanese army patrol mistaking them for Hezbollah fighters, the first such incident since the regime launched an operation this week against Lebanon.

Lebanon said Zionist troops had fired in the air when they were surprised by a Lebanese army patrol on the Lebanese side.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The regime said three people who were "apparently Hezbollah activists" approached its troops as they carried out an operation to shut down purported tunnels that the Zionist regime has claimed were dug by the Lebanese resistance movement.

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu briefed Russian President Vladimir Putin on the regime's crackdown along Lebanon's border, the Kremlin said on Saturday.

During their phone call, initiated by Netanyahu, "The President of Russia stressed the importance of ensuring stability in the region," the Kremlin

statement said.

A spokesman for Netanyahu had no immediate comment. Given Russia's powerful position with Hezbollah's allies in neighboring Syria, the Zionist regime may be seeking Russian understanding for its latest moves against the resistance movement.

Zionist opposition leader Tzipi Livni has criticized Netanyahu for overdramatizing the recent operation "for political gain."

Livni told the Kan public broadcaster that while she and the rest of the opposition welcomed the army's operation to find and destroy the alleged tunnels, it "must be kept in proportion."

"We are not now in a situation where our soldiers are behind enemy lines. We are talking about engineering activity ...," she said, accusing Netanyahu of "blowing the incident out of proportion."

Lebanon's Foreign Ministry is going to submit a complaint to the United Nations about "repeated Israeli violations," according to a report published by Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA).

'U.S. Spy Plane Spotted Over Russian Bases in Syria'

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The U.S. Navy anti-submarine patrol aircraft Poseidon P-8A conducted a surveillance flight near the coast of Syria, where the Russian Aerospace Forces' Hmeymin airbase and the Russian Navy base in Tartus are located, according to the IntelSky flight tracker.

The plane with the number 168848 departed from the Sigonella airbase in Sicily and flew for more than three hours over the international waters of the Eastern Mediterranean, along the Syrian coast.

The Pentagon has not commented on the matter, but U.S. reconnaissance planes have repeatedly carried out flights over Hmeymin and Tartus bases in the past.

The flight comes after Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin said on October 26 that the Hmeymin airbase had been subject to a massive drone attack, with unmanned aerial vehicles having been piloted by a US Poseidon 8 surveillance aircraft.

"The Poseidon 8, equipped with modern technology, was in manual control [over the drones]," Fomin said. He added that when the drones encountered the radio-electronic barrier protecting the Russian equipment, they were ordered to fly a specific distance away from it.

Late last year, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu announced that Russia had started establishing a permanent presence in the coastal

city of Tartus and at Hmeymin in neighboring Latakia province, where he said the Russian armed forces are equipped with modern weapons "at 59.5 percent", while the serviceability of weapons is at 94 percent.

The anti-aircraft defense of Hmeymin Airbase is provided for by advanced S-400 systems, while S-300 surface-to-air missile systems, as well as the cruise missile-equipped Bastion coastal missile systems cover the Tartus base.

Russia's S-300s Should Remain in Syria

A representative of the Syrian Negotiation Commission (SNC) and

member of the political committee of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (SOC) told Sputnik that Russia's S-300 air defense systems should remain in Syria if they protect the country from airstrikes and enemies.

"If they are good for Syria, for sure we would like them to stay there," Hadi al-Bahra said on Friday. "We need to look at the cause. If they are there to protect the Syrian territories from enemies, airstrikes, then they are positive, but also they have not been tested yet to see how effective they are."

On October 2, Russia finished delivering S-300 systems to Syria in a bid to increase the security of Russian troops deployed there.

Iraqi Air Force Receives Batch of South Korean Warplanes

BAGHDAD (Press TV)—The Iraqi military has received a new batch of South Korean KAI T-50 Golden Eagle supersonic advanced trainers and light combat aircraft under a deal struck between Baghdad and Seoul several years ago.

The Iraqi Air Force, in a statement released on Saturday, announced that six T-50 trainer jets had arrived at the Martyr Mohammed Alaa airbase in Baghdad.

The Iraqi government confirmed on October 28 that it had received a batch of six South Korean combat aircraft.

Back in March 2017, Baghdad also announced that six T-50 trainer jets had arrived at a military airbase

in the Arab country. The Defense Ministry said the second shipment was delivered in May this year.

In December 2013, Iraq signed a contract for 24 T-50 fighter jets, plus additional equipment and pilot training over the next 20 years.

The contract was initially estimated at \$1.1 billion, but the manufacturer Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) later put the figure beyond \$2 billion.

The KAI T-50 Golden Eagle's maiden flight occurred in 2002. The aircraft entered active service with the Republic of Korea Air Force in 2005.

Iraq has been seeking to upgrade its military equipment and boost its defense power, specifically after

Daesh began its campaign of terror and destruction in the Arab country.

In June, the Iraqi Defense Ministry stated that it had taken delivery of 39 advanced T-90 battle tanks from Russia, adding that the armored fighting vehicles had been distributed between two battalions of an army brigade.

The statement said that Iraqi military personnel had already been trained by Russian experts on how to operate the battle tanks.

The T-90 is a third-generation Russian battle tank built upon the time-proven Soviet T-72 design.

It is among the best-selling tanks in the world, and known for its firepower, enhanced protection and

mobility.

The T-90 features a smoothbore 2A46M 125mm main gun, which can fire both armor-piercing shells and anti-tank missiles.

The advanced tank also features sophisticated armor, ensuring all-round protection of the crew and critical systems, including explosive reactive armor and active infrared jammers to defend it from inbound rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank missiles and other projectiles.

The Iraqi military plans to reinforce its fleet of M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks with T-90s. A large number of American M1A1 Abrams tanks have been damaged in the fight against Daesh Takfiri terrorists.