

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve has said in its monthly civilian casualty report that the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq and Syria has killed at least 1,370 civilians since the start of its military operations in 2014, although local sources speak of much higher toll. “The Coalition conducted 34,763 strikes between August 2014 and the end of December 2019. During this period, based on information available, CJTF-OIR assesses at least 1,370 civilians have been unintentionally killed by coalition actions since the beginning of Operation Inherent Resolve,” the report said.

A conceited and self-admiring person is disliked by others; charity and alms are the best remedy for ailments and calamities; one has to account in the next world for the deeds that he has done in this world.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Top Bahraini Cleric:

Trump’s Plan Act of High Treason Against Entire Muslim World

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Bahrain’s most prominent Shia cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim has severely denounced U.S. President Donald Trump’s so-called deal of the century on the decades-old Zionist-Palestinian conflict as treason and an act of aggression against the entire Muslim world.

“The plan is an aggressive position against the whole Muslim Ummah, which the United States, Israel and those who have contributed to it are seeking to advance. This is an act of high treason,” the cleric said at a ceremony marking the ninth anniversary of Bahrain’s popular uprising against the ruling Al Khalifah regime in the Iranian city of Qom on Thursday night. Sheikh Qassim also harshly criticized Arab states that have backed the U.S.-crafted deal for betraying Palestinian people. On January 28, Trump unveiled his so-called deal of the century, negotiated with the Zionist regime but without the Palestinians.

Palestinian leaders, who severed all ties with Washington in late 2017 after Trump controversially recognized al-Quds as the so-called capital of the Zionist regime, immediately rejected the plan, with President Mahmoud Abbas saying it “belongs to the dustbin of history.”

Meanwhile, a high-ranking



Palestinian demonstrators wave national flags as they face Zionist troops during a protest outside the West Bank village of Tubas, near the Jordan Valley, on January 29, 2020, against U.S. President Donald Trump’s Mideast Plan.

official from the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement said his group is determined to foil Trump’s plan.

Khalil al-Hayya, a member of Hamas’ political bureau, made the remarks during a ceremony in Gaza City on Wednesday, vowing that the resistance group would continue its fight against the regime’s occupation.

The so-called “peace” plan enshrines al-Quds as “Israel’s undivided capital” and allows the regime to annex settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley. The plan also denies the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland, among other controversial

terms.

Hayya’s comments were primarily made in response to Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who threatened Hamas on Tuesday with dire “surprise” if the movement’s attacks against Zionist regime targets did not come to an end.

“While you are threatening Hamas, Hamas is already geared up to uproot you and make you leave our land,” the senior Hamas official said, directly addressing the Zionist premier.

“If the [Palestinian Authority’s] relations and security coordination with the occupation are not severed, the world will not believe us that we are against

‘the deal of the century,’” he stressed.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has already severed ties between the Palestinian Authority, which he heads, and the Zionist regime as well as the U.S. in reaction to Trump’s scheme. Addressing the UN Security Council on Tuesday, Abbas reiterated his rejection of the U.S. president’s initiative.

However, Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir hailed the so-called deal of the century as positive, saying the initiative can provide the basis for negotiations between the Palestinians and the Zionist regime.

“The Palestinians must decide for themselves, and we must support them. I believe that things will become clear after the U.S. elections (slated for November 3, 2020),” Jubeir said at a press conference on the sidelines of his visit to the Romanian capital Bucharest on Thursday.

The top Saudi official went on to claim that there are some positive elements in Trump’s proposed deal, which could facilitate negotiations between Zionist and Palestinian officials.

On January 28, Trump unveiled his so-called deal of the century, negotiated with the Zionist regime but without the Palestinians.

Zionist Delegation Visits Saudi Arabia



A handout picture provided by the Saudi Royal Palace on November 20, 2019, shows Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman upon his arrival to attend the annual speech of the Saudi King at the Shura Council, a top advisory body, in the capital Riyadh.

RIYADH (Dispatches) – A high-ranking Zionist delegation from an umbrella U.S. Jewish group visited Saudi Arabia this week, a sign of increasing warmth between the occupying regime of Israel and the Saudi regime as the two sides look to forge closer informal ties and expedite normalization efforts.

Israel’s English-language broadsheet newspaper The Jerusalem Post reported on Friday that members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations visited Saudi Arabia this week, a move believed to be the first official visit to the kingdom by an American Jewish organization since the Oslo peace process in 1993.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency said the visit, which took place from Monday to Thursday, included meetings with senior Saudi officials as well as with Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdul Karim bin Abdulaziz al-Issa, the secretary general of the Muslim World League.

Issa is regarded as a close associate of Saudi Crown, Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Saudi Arabia has expanded secret ties with the Zionist regime under the crown prince, the son of King Salman, who is viewed by many as the Kingdom’s de facto ruler.

Back in 2018, Saudi Arabia opened its airspace for a commercial flight to the Zionist regime with the start of a new Air India route between India and the occupied territories, although El Al Israel Airlines might not use Saudi airspace for eastward flights.

Critics say Saudi Arabia’s flirtation with the Zionist regime would undermine efforts to isolate Tel Aviv and affect the Palestinian cause in general.

Arrest Campaign Against Palestinians

In another development, Saudi regime authorities have launched a new campaign of “arbitrary” arrests against Palestinian expatriates living in the conservative kingdom on charges of supporting the Hamas resistance movement.

The Prisoners of Conscience, a non-governmental organization advocating human rights in Saudi Arabia, announced in a post on its official Twitter page that the kingdom had detained a number of Palestinians, including the relatives or children of those imprisoned last April for the same reason.

On October 21 last year, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri told Arabic-language Shehab news agency in an exclusive interview that Palestinians being held at prisons and detention centers in Saudi Arabia are exposed to various forms of torture and cruel methods of interrogation.

“Unfortunately, there is a harsh investigation procedure against the detainees, some of whom are subjected to various forms of torture. Interrogators of different nationalities are questioning them,” he said then.

Abu Zuhri added, “There are about 60 Palestinian detainees [in Saudi jails], and some of them are the sons or supporters of Hamas. Some of them have even lived more than three decades in the kingdom and greatly contributed to the construction of the country.”

He further noted that Hamas has made great efforts, either through contacts with a number of countries or Saudi officials, to secure the release of the Palestinian inmates but all to no avail.

Rocket Hits U.S. Base in Iraq’s Kirkuk

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – A Katyusha rocket has landed on a military base that houses U.S. troops in Iraq’s northern province of Kirkuk, a local security source says.

The attack took place on Thursday evening when the rocket hit K1 military base in the oil-rich province of Kirkuk without causing casualties, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi police forces searched the area where the rocket was launched from, and found a 12-rocket Katyusha launcher

with only one rocket was fired on the base, the source said.

It was the first attack on the K1 base since December 27 last year, when a volley of rockets killed an American contractor and wounded several military personnel.

Shortly after the attack, the Pentagon issued a statement, announcing that it had carried out what it called “defensive strikes” in Iraq and Syria against the facilities of Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), commonly known by the Arabic name Hashd al-

Sha’abi.

The Pentagon added that it had targeted three locations of the Iraqi fighters in Iraq and two in Syria.

It said the raids targeted weapon storage facilities and command control locations, claiming that the bombings were in response to attacks targeting American forces in Iraq.

On January 14, Iraq’s military announced in a statement that Camp Taji, situated approximately 27 kilometers (17 miles) north of the capital

Baghdad, had been targeted by Katyusha rockets but reported that there were no casualties.

The statement did not say how many rockets had hit the military base, with no group claiming responsibility for the attack.

A volley of Katyusha rockets had landed on al-Balad airbase, located some 80 kilometers north of Baghdad, two day earlier, wounding two Iraqi officers and two airmen.

On January 5, Iraqi lawmakers unanimously approved a bill demanding the withdrawal.

Taliban, Afghan Forces Clash Despite U.S. ‘Peace’ Talks

KABUL (Dispatches) – Afghan government forces and Taliban militants have waged war against each other in the past 24 hours despite U.S. officials claiming there had been a breakthrough in recent days in talks to end the 18-year-old conflict.

While negotiators from the warring sides pressed on with meetings in Doha, Qatar, the Taliban and the Afghan government both reported fighting on the ground.

The Afghan defense ministry said an air strike had killed a senior Taliban commander in northern Balkh province on Thursday evening.

“As result of a targeted air strike by Afghan air forces, Mawlawi Sardar Mohammad, a key member of the Taliban military commission was killed along with eight others,” the ministry said in a statement.

The Taliban did not confirm the air strike.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the militants had killed six Afghan soldiers, including two officers, in an attack on a checkpoint in northern Kunduz province.

Afghan, Taliban and U.S. sources said a deal could be signed this month, allowing a withdrawal of

some of 13,000 U.S. troops and thousands of other NATO personnel that remain in Afghanistan following the U.S. invasion of the country in 2001.

U.S. President Donald Trump claimed on Thursday there was a “good chance” of reaching an agreement with the Taliban on a reduction of U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Details about when that was set to begin were not immediately clear but a Taliban official said it would be this week.

Attacks in Afghanistan jumped to record levels in the last quarter of 2019 compared with previous years.

Turkey Says to Export Fast-Results Coronavirus Detection Kit

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey will in coming days export to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan locally-produced coronavirus detection kits that can get results in about two hours, its health minister says.

China’s coronavirus outbreak has showed no sign of peaking with health authorities reporting more than 5,000 new cases earlier on Friday.

Earlier this month, Turkey evacuated 42 people from China’s Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, and kept them

quarantined for 14 days while authorities ran tests.

Speaking in Ankara after the quarantine period expired with no detected infections, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Turkey’s coronavirus detection kit has a 99.6% accuracy rate.

The kit was produced in line with data from the World Health Organisation and can get results in 90-120 minutes, a bit less than in Germany or France, he said.

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan requested some 10,000 kits

each and Turkey will begin exporting them in coming days, Koca said. “We will be exporting this in line with the demand we receive.”

Ankara has said there are no known cases of the virus in the country and authorities are using thermal cameras at airports as well as other protective measures. Turkish Airlines suspended flights to China after the World Health Organisation (WHO) said it was declaring the outbreak a global emergency.