



Turkey Says Killed 10 Kurdish Militants in Syria's Tel Rifaat

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey killed 10 Kurdish militants in Syria's Tel Rifaat region on Sunday in retaliation for an attack that killed a Turkish soldier, the Turkish Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

Turkey says the Kurdish YPG militia in Syria is part of the PKK militant group, which it designates a terrorist group and which it has been fighting for more than 30 years. The United Nations warned on Monday that up to 2 million refugees could flee to Turkey if fighting intensifies in northwestern Syria as aid funds run dangerously low.

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Turkey Chafes at U.S. Pressure Over Russian Defense Systems



President Donald Trump, left, talks to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, right, as they tour the new NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, July 11, 2018.

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkey said on Tuesday a U.S. House of Representatives' resolution condemning Ankara's purchase of Russian systems and urging potential sanctions was unacceptably threatening.

Relations between the two NATO members have been

strained on several fronts including Ankara's plans to buy Russia's S-400 air systems, the detention of U.S. consular staff in Turkey, and conflicting strategy over Syria and Iran.

The standoff threatens to bring U.S. sanctions, which would hurt Turkey's already

recession-hit economy, and raise questions over its role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The resolution, introduced in May and entitled "Expressing concern for the United States-Turkey alliance", was agreed in the House on Monday.

It urges Turkey to cancel the S-400 purchase and calls for sanctions if it accepts their delivery, which may come as soon as July. That, the resolution said, would undermine the U.S.-led transatlantic alliance.

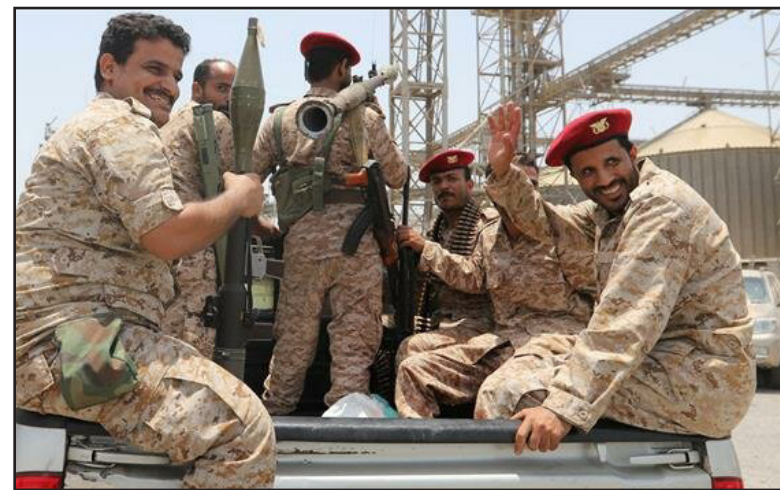
In response, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that its foreign policy and judicial system were being maligned by "unfair" and "unfounded" allegations in the resolution.

"It is unacceptable to take decisions which do not serve to increase mutual trust, to continue to keep the language of threats and sanctions on the agenda and to set various artificial deadlines," it added.

President Tayyip Erdogan's government faces a balancing act in its ties with the West and Russia, with which it has close energy ties and is also cooperating in neighboring Syria.

U.S. officials said on Monday the training of Turkish pilots on F-35 fighter jets had come to a faster-than-expected halt at an air base in Arizona, as Ankara's involvement was wound down over the S-400 controversy.

Yemeni Army Warns Saudi Arabia, UAE of More Surprises



Yemen's Houthi fighters ride in the back of a vehicle during their withdrawal from Salif port in Hudaydah Province on May 11, 2019.

SANAA (Dispatches) – The Yemeni army will further surprise Saudi Arabia and the UAE in case they continue attacks against the impoverished Arab country, the spokesman for Yemen's Armed Forces has warned.

The remarks by Brigadier General Yahya Saree came after drone operations by Houthi Ansarullah fighters against Malik Khalid airbase and Khamis Mashit region in Saudi Arabia's Assir region targeted the airbase's advanced radars and remote-control rooms.

He also warned the Saudi-led coalition that the Yemeni army is capable of conducting concurrent operations, adding that they are extending the range of their attacks.

"We advise the Saudi and UAE governments to stop attacks. We have many surprises which will be revealed in the next few days," Saree underlined.

Yemen's Armed Forces launched fresh drone attacks on an airport in Saudi Arabia's Southwestern Jizan region.

"Qasif-K2 combat drones targeted drone bunkers and stations at the Jizan airport after collecting intelligence on the sites," Yemen's al-Masirah TV channel reported on Sunday.

Al-Masirah quoted a military source as saying that Saudi Arabia had converted the Jizan airport into a military base.

The Yemeni Army and popular forces have carried out several drone at-

tacks on Jizan and Najran airports over the past few weeks to retaliate for the war that Saudi Arabia has been leading on Yemen since March 2015.

Last month, a Yemeni drone targeted a major oil pumping station deep inside Saudi Arabia, forcing state crude giant Aramco to temporarily shut down pumping operations at the site.

Meantime, Yemen's Ansarullah movement announced late last week that its troops had shot down a US-made drone in the Western region of Yemen.

Also, Yemeni Defense Minister Major-General Mohammad Nasser al-Atifi visited his country's armed forces in Southern Saudi Arabia's Najran region for the first time, a move believed by experts to be a humiliation of Riyadh.

While visiting the Saudi forces, Major-General al-Atifi congratulated the Yemeni Army and popular forces on their high morale to face the Saudi aggressors.

The Yemeni defense minister underlined that the Yemeni Army and popular forces are very close to the city of Najran in Southern Saudi Arabia, and said that more victories are imminent.

"The Yemeni forces are just few kilometers away from Najran city and its airport," al-Atifi said.

The Yemeni defense minister reiterated the Yemeni Army and popular forces will never abandon defending their homeland as they were very close to victory over the Saudi aggressors.

Family of French Terrorist in Syria Sent Back to France

PARIS (Dispatches) – The family of a French man who had been fighting in Syria arrived back in France on Tuesday after having been expelled from Turkey, said a judicial source.

The source said the family - comprised of the man, two wives and nine children - had been initially arrested in Turkey after traveling to that country from Syria.

Earlier this week, twelve French and two Dutch orphans of Daesh terrorists were repatriated to France

from Syria.

Authorities in northeast Syria have been urging Western countries to take back citizens who joined Daesh and their relatives after the U.S.-backed so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) captured the group's last enclave this year.

Kurdish-led authorities last week said they had repatriated two U.S. women along with six children.

However, few countries have seemed willing to take back their citizens, who may be hard to prosecute, and the

issue has led to fierce debate in their home countries where there is little public sympathy for the families of terrorists.

The issue is particularly acute in France where President Emmanuel Macron is under pressure after several French men were recently sentenced to death in Iraq on charges of joining Daesh. France opposes the death penalty.

But the French government has refused to take back Daesh terrorists and their wives. It has called the adults "en-

emies" of the nation, saying they should face justice either in Syria or Iraq.

The Kurdish-led administration and the SDF have said they cannot indefinitely hold thousands of foreigners, including many unrepentant terrorists, but no clear international policy has emerged over how to handle the issue.

Many of the relatives of captured Daesh terrorists are located in al-Hol, a camp for displaced people where aid agencies have warned of dire humanitarian conditions.

Western Media Eulogize Pro-Daesh Dead Syrian Footballer

DAMASCUS (Press TV) – Western media have been eulogizing a Syrian footballer-turned-militant, who was killed during clashes with government forces, despite clear evidence indicating his support for terror outfits such as Daesh and al-Qaeda.

Abdul Baset al-Sarout, who was born in 1992, rose to fame as a goalkeeper in a youth soccer team in Syria's Western city of Homs.

In 2011, he joined the ranks of anti-Damascus militants.

After the so-called Free Syrian Army disintegrated in late 2012, Sarout joined the Jaysh al-Izza faction, which is deeply linked to al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, the al-Nusra Front.

On Saturday, he died of wounds he had sustained in a battle with Syrian government forces in Hama Province.

Western media have downplayed Sarout's ties with terrorists and called him "the singer of the revolution," referring to the foreign-backed militancy plaguing Syria since 2011.

He was also dubbed by those outlets "the icon of the rebellion against President Bashar Assad," "the revolution's nightingale," "the voice of the insurrection," "the hero of Homs" and "the revolution's goalie."

This is while in a video recorded prior to his evacuation from Homs in 2014, the Syrian

youth is heard arguing that the al-Nusra Front and Daesh "have the same goals as us," and that the terror outfits are "working for God."

He also vowed to fight alongside terrorists against "Christians, Shias and apostates," noting that they were not "scared of suicide belts and car bombs."

In another video, Sarout led fellow militants in a song glorifying former al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Lebanese journalist Marwa Osman said Sarout had pledged allegiance to both al-Qaeda and Daesh, but that Western media were "too arrogant" to admit the truth.

Zionist Troops Open Fire on Palestinian Security Center

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have opened fire on a Palestinian security headquarters in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, injuring at least one Palestinian officer.

Nablus Governor Ibrahim Ramadan said that a group of Zionist troopers targeted the headquarters by blockading the building and shot at it "directly and without justification," early on Tuesday, wounding one security guard and causing property damage.

Other reports suggested two Palestinian security officials were wounded during the attack. The Zionist regime's military claimed that the troops had opened fire as they mistook the Palestinian security forces for "suspects" while searching the area for "terrorists."

But Ramadan dismissed the claims as fabrication and noted that the Zionist troops had opened fire on the building with-

out justification.

"We must not remain silent before such acts. Their goal was to kill. The bullets broke the windows and hit the offices," Ramadan said.

This attack is not the first and will not be the last, especially amidst the current serious escalation against Palestinians, their homes and land, he added.

Earlier on Tuesday, an Israeli army spokesman said that the troops had arrested some 18 Palestinians during an overnight raid across the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian sources also said that Zionist troops had arrested two members of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in Tulkarm in the West Bank's north.

The Israeli army frequently carries out wide-ranging arrest campaigns across the occupied West Bank under the pretext of searching for "wanted" Palestinians.