

U.S. Says Osama bin Laden Son Dead

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The United States believes that Hamza bin Laden, a son of slain al-Qaeda ringleader Osama bin Laden and himself a notable figure in the militant group, is dead, a U.S. official says. The U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, provided no further details, including when Hamza died or where. President Donald Trump earlier on Wednesday declined to comment after NBC News first reported the U.S. assessment. Asked if he had intelligence that bin Laden's son had been killed, Trump told reporters: "I don't want to comment on it."

Your houses and property was taken up by others, your widows have remarried, this is what we can tell you of this world.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

U.S., EU Urged to Withdraw Forces From Syria



This picture, taken on May 23, 2019, shows smoke rising following Syrian government forces' bombardment of militant positions in the town of Khan Sheikhun in the southern countryside of the northwestern province of Idlib.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Russia is urging the United States and European countries to withdraw forces from Syria, but can see the increase in their military presence there instead, Russian Special Presidential Envoy for Syria Alexander Lavrentyev said Friday.

"We are always calling on the United States and other — European — countries, whose troops are also illegally in Syria, to leave this sovereign state. Nevertheless, they are still justifying it by the need to fight Daesh and other terrorist groups", Lavrentyev said at a press conference.

The Russian presidential envoy stressed that these countries were in reality pursuing their own agenda.

"So far we have not been able to convince them to withdraw forces. Despite the words of [U.S. President Donald] Trump that U.S. forces would be pulled out, we can see, on the contrary, the increase in these forces, partly because of the presence of private military companies", the envoy said.

The remarks come as the Syrian government has agreed to a truce deal in the country's terrorist-held northwestern province of Idlib on condition

that a buffer zone is created between army troops and foreign-sponsored terrorists.

Syria's official news agency SANA, citing an unnamed military source, announced on Thursday Damascus's "approval for a ceasefire in the de-escalation zone in Idlib starting from tonight" on condition terrorists and militant groups withdraw forces and weaponry from a buffer zone as per a deal reached following a meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea

resort city of Sochi on September 17, 2018.

Under the agreement, all militants in a demilitarized zone, which surrounds Idlib and also parts of the adjacent provinces of Aleppo and Hama, were supposed to pull out heavy arms by October 17 last year, and terrorist groups had to withdraw two days earlier.

The National Front for the Liberation of Syria is the main Turkish-backed terrorist alliance in the Idlib region, but the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) terrorist group, which is a coalition of different factions of terror outfits, largely composed of the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham terrorist group, formerly known as al-Nusra Front, holds a large part of the province and the zone.

The HTS, which is said to be in control of some 60 percent of Idlib Province, has yet to announce its stance on the buffer zone deal.

It is estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 members of different factions of armed groups, which Syria, Russia and Turkey consider terrorists, are active in the volatile province, which is home to around three million inhabitants.

The announcement of the conditional truce came as representatives of guarantor states in Syria peace process — Turkey, Russia, and Iran — and delegates from the United Nations held a two-day meeting in the Kazakh capital city of Nur-Sultan on Thursday.

Representatives of some armed Syrian opposition groups have also confirmed their participation in the talks.

At Least 19 Saudi-Led Forces Killed in al-Qaeda Attack in Yemen



Forces loyal to Yemen's resigned president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi inspect the site of car bomb attacks outside a military headquarters in the southern port city of Aden, Yemen, January 2017.

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Al-Qaeda terrorists attacked a military camp in southern Yemen on Friday, killing at least 19 Saudi-led forces, security sources said.

The attack is the second in as many days on a camp for the so-called Yemeni Security Belt forces backed by the United Arab Emirates, a member of the Saudi-led Arab coalition fighting in Yemen.

The al-Qaeda militants briefly took control of the camp in the village of Al Mahfad in southern Abyan governorate before it was retaken hours later, the sources said.

The al-Qaeda terrorists remained inside the base for several hours before being pushed back by Saudi-led militia and airstrikes on Friday, according to three security officials speaking to AFP. Many other pro-Hadi troops were also wounded in the militant attack.

The assault comes as numerous reports said that Saudi Arabia's four-year devastating war against Yemen, with the announced the goal of installing former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in power, largely enabled al-Qaeda to operate freely in the country.

Probes done by various groups said the Saudi-led coalition had forged secret alliances with the al-Qaeda terrorists, providing them

with weapons and finances under the green light of Washington.

According to a CNN report earlier this year, Saudi Arabia and its main accomplice in the war on Yemen, the UAE, have used U.S.-manufactured weapons as "a form of currency" to buy the loyalties of armed militia in the country, many of which are openly aligned with al-Qaeda.

In another development, Yemeni armed forces launched missile and drone attacks on a camp of Saudi-sponsored militiamen loyal to the country's ex-government in the port city of Aden, killing dozens of them, including a commander.

The Yemeni forces — led by the Houthi Ansarullah movement — said they hit the Jala'a camp west of the city while the mercenaries were holding a military parade on Thursday, Yemen's al-Masirah TV reported.

They said a Qasaf K2 (Striker K2) drone and a medium-range ballistic missile were used in the joint operation with the aim of destroying the enemy forces.

The report cited a Houthi military spokesman as saying that the parade being staged in preparation for a military move against the provinces of Taiz and Dalea, which are under the control of Ansarullah movement.

Zionist Regime Missile Strikes Syrian Village Near Golan

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's military has launched a missile at an area in Syria's southwestern province of Quneitra near the border with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that the projectile slammed into the small village of Tal Bariqa, and that the attack left no casualties.

The report added that the missile strike caused only material damage.

A spokesperson for the regime's army said it does not comment on foreign reports.

Meanwhile, the London-based so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that forces loyal to the Syrian government were present in the area of the attack, though it did not report any casualties.

The Syrian province of Quneitra includes the Golan Heights, most of which has been occupied and annexed by the regime despite the

international outcry against the Tel Aviv regime.

The Zionist regime has carried out hundreds of air strikes in Syria, including in the area of the Golan Heights, most of them against what the Tel Aviv regime claims to be positions of pro-Syrian forces.

The state-run al-Ikhabriyah Syria television news network said in a newsflash early on June 24 that several civilians had lost their lives and sustained injuries, when Zionist regime fighter jets launched an airstrike against a strategic area in Syria's southwestern province of Dara'a.

The report added that the air raid was directed on Tel Haraa, which overlooks the occupied Golan Heights.

Tel Haraa was for many years a major Russian military radar outpost, until foreign-sponsored terrorists overran it in 2014. Syrian government forces managed to establish full control over the strategic area last year.

'Zionist, Saudi Regimes Held Talks on Gas Deal'

RIYADH (Dispatches) – An ally of Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Riyadh has exchanged views with the Zionist regime on importing natural gas from the occupied territories, as the two regimes speed up normalization efforts.

Citing conversations with senior regional officials, former Israeli communications minister Ayoob Kara, said that the two regimes had discussed building a pipeline that would connect Saudi Arabia to Eliat, a Red Sea resort city in the southern tip of the occupied

lands, Bloomberg reported. Referring to the gas pipeline project, Kara said, "This is about mutual interest."

He also claimed that support for Palestine had begun to wane in the Arab world because of the strains between Iran and other Persian Gulf countries.

Currently, he added, Saudi Arabia and its regional allies only pay "lip service" to the Palestinian cause, and are seeking upgraded military and economic ties with Israel.

"All they care about is the se-

curity and future of their countries," Kara said.

Netanyahu's ally further noted that part of the Saudi-Zionist discussions center on a new energy corridor that would connect Saudi Arabia to the Eilat-Ashkelon Pipeline, a project that would allow the kingdom to export its oil to Europe.

The occupying regime has full diplomatic relations with only two Arab states, Egypt and Jordan, but latest reports suggest the regime is working behind the scenes to establish formal contact with Saudi Ara-

bia and its allies.

In an interview with U.S. magazine The Atlantic in April 2018, Saudi Crown prince Mohammed bin Salman recognized the "right" for Zionists to "have their own land."

Critics say Saudi Arabia's flirtation with the occupying regime would undermine global efforts to isolate Tel Aviv and affect the Palestinian cause in general. They say Riyadh has gone too far in its cooperation with the Israelis as a way of deterring Iran as an influential player in the region.

'Facebook Dismantles Covert Influence Campaign Tied to Saudi Regime'

LONDON (Dispatches) – People connected to the regime of Saudi Arabia have run a network of fake accounts and pages on Facebook Inc to promote state propaganda and attack regional rivals, the social media giant says.

Facebook said it had suspended more than 350 accounts and pages with about 1.4 million followers, the latest takedown in an ongoing effort to combat "coordinated inauthentic behavior" on its platform, and the first such activity it has linked to the Saudi regime.

The Saudi regime has increasingly turned to websites such as Facebook, Twitter and Google's YouTube to peddle covert political

influence online.

Riyadh has been accused of using tactics to attack regional rival Qatar and spread disinformation following the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly denied any involvement in Khashoggi's death. Along with allies, it maintains a trade and diplomatic boycott of Qatar, accusing it of terrorism which Qatar denies.

Facebook announces takedowns of "inauthentic behavior" as often as multiple times a month, but statements that directly link such behavior to a government are rare.

"For this operation, our investigators were able to confirm that the individuals behind this are associated with the government of Saudi Arabia," said Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy.

"Anytime we have a link between an information operation and a government, that's significant and people should be aware."

Facebook also said on Thursday it had suspended a separate network of more than 350 accounts linked to marketing firms in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. In that case it did not directly link the activity to a government.