

6 Killed in Airstrike in Eastern Afghanistan

GHAZNI (Xinhua) – Six Taliban militants were killed in an airstrike in Afghanistan's eastern Ghazni province overnight, the provincial government said Saturday. "A NATO-led Resolute Support aircraft conducted the strike on a Taliban hideout in Hadda village of Dih Yak district, and the strike resulted in the killing of six Taliban militants," the government said in a statement. Four militants were also wounded in the strike, the statement added. The mountainous province has for long been the scene of heavy clashes and fighting.

Thought for Today

Daily prayers are the best medium through which one can seek the nearness to Allah. Hajj is Jihad (Holy War) for every weak person. For everything that you own there is Zakat, and Zakat of your body is fasting. The Jihad of a woman is to afford pleasant company to her husband.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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Nasrallah:

Zionist Regime Wished to Create New Mideast by 33-Day War

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -The secretary general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has said the Zionist military's 33-day war on Lebanon in the summer of 2006 was aimed at creation of a new Middle East region, where the Tel Aviv regime would have performed the leading role.

"The Zionist military was simply a tool in the 2006 war against Lebanon, as the military campaign had been orchestrated by the United States. Among the objectives of the war were putting an end to the presence of Hezbollah resistance in Lebanon, toppling the Syrian government, and defeating Iran in the region," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated in a televised speech broadcast live from the southern Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil on Friday evening.

He added that American officials, by launching the 33-day war on Lebanon, had wished to form a new Middle East, where the Zionist regime would have been in the saddle, controlling everything.

"In that war, John Bolton, then the U.S. ambassador to the UN Security Council, told an Arab official: 'The war will stop only if Hezbollah is



The secretary general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, delivers a speech broadcast from the southern Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil on August 16, 2019.

crushed or it surrenders."

"But Bolton later told the same Arab official: 'We have to stop the war now.'"

"The Arab official asked him: Did you crush Hezbollah? He said no. The Arab official asked: Did Hezbollah surrender? He said no. The Arab official said: So why did you stop the war?! Bolton said: Israel would face a catastrophe if the war continues," the Hezbollah chief said.

"American and Zionist officials

failed to attain any of their goals (in the 33-day war)," Nasrallah said, describing Hezbollah as a deterrent force against U.S. and Zionist acts of aggression in the region.

The Hezbollah chief noted that Lebanon could emerge victorious in the war because it held on to the golden equation of people, army and the anti-Israel resistance front.

Nasrallah then warned Zionist officials against launching a new military aggression against his country, stress-

ing that all Zionist battalions will be destroyed under the eyes of mainstream media.

"Zionist military experts acknowledge that the Zionist army is incapable of waging a fresh war on Lebanon," he said.

The Hezbollah secretary general went on to say that the resistance front is gaining momentum across the Middle East, and now covers a vast expanse of land from Lebanon to Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq and Iran.

"Reliance on the resistance front will prevent war, acts of aggression as well as terrorism. Being part of such an axis will prevent Trump's exploitation as he is now milking Persian Gulf countries," Nasrallah stated.

He also lauded Palestinians' outright rejection of Trump's controversial proposal for peace between the Zionists and Palestinians, dubbed "the deal of the century."

"Look at daily operations being carried out by Palestinians against Israel in the occupied territories. They are done by young people who are not older than 15. This is the new Palestinian generation," Nasrallah said.

Israeli MP Attacked by Police for Waving Palestinian Flag



This image shows Ofer Cassif (left) speaking alongside far-left Hadash party chairman Ayman Odeh in Shfaram, Israel, February 1, 2019.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – An Israeli lawmaker has been attacked by Zionist police after waving a Palestinian flag during a demonstration in al-Quds.

Knesset member Ofer Cassif was attacked while protesting ramped-up settler presence in al-Quds' eastern Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood under the escort of security forces, Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported.

According to Cassif, the police attacked him and his aide after they objected to the forced seizure of the flag.

A video shows police scuffling with the duo, with the lawmaker being held by an officer while the aide is handcuffed in a painful position, prompting him to cry out in pain.

The officers reportedly asked Cassif to present identification proving he was a legislator but didn't give him the chance to do so.

"They hit him and pushed me," said Cassif, adding that "I told them that I am a member of Knesset but they did not let me show identification."

The aide, which was arrested, was later taken to a police station only to be transferred to a hospital after feeling unwell because of diabetes. The aide was transferred with both hands and feet cuffed, according to Cassif.

Zionist police frequently seize Palestinian flags during protests

on the pretext that they were "disturbing peace".

According to Cassif, however, the protest was quiet and peaceful before police officers moved in to seize Palestinian flags from the assembly.

"If they had waited just another 10 minutes, we would have dispersed. It was unnecessary, stupid and tasteless," he said.

"A police force that is expert at planting weapons in the homes of innocents has no problem planting violence in a quiet protest," he added, referring to a recently reported incident where police had planted an M-16 rifle in the home of a Palestinian for a docudrama serving Israeli propaganda purposes.

Cassif has been targeted by Zionist regime authorities before.

In March 2019, he was banned from contesting in parliamentary elections by the central election committee for "provocative statements", only to have the ban overturned when the case was challenged in court.

Cassif's remarks regarding the country's Zionist founding ideology, including the one that Zionism "encourages" anti-Semitism, has enraged Israeli leaders.

The Israeli lawmaker has also described PM Benjamin Netanyahu as an "arch-murderer" and chief of staff of the occupying regime's army Aviv Kochavi as a "war criminal".

Official Documents on Khashoggi Murder Released

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A U.S. organization has started publishing official documents dealing with the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October last year.

The Open Society Justice Initiative explained via its website that it has obtained the documents under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

This occurred after U.S. judge Paul A. Engelmayer last month ordered the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump to hand over all documents related to the crime. The judge stated this must be done at a rate of 5,000 pages per month, out of the 300,000 pages held by the State and Defense Departments, the Associated Press reported.

Engelmayer stressed the importance of the issue and the need to tackle it urgently, not-

ing that Khashoggi's death was "front-page news" when the FOIA request was made in December, but the relevant agencies did not respond until April.

"In the months since, Khashoggi's disappearance, and the facts or allegations regarding his killing in Saudi custody, have continued to be a matter of intense interest among the public, legislators, other policymakers and journalists," the judge wrote.

The Washington Post, for which Khashoggi was a columnist, reported last November that the CIA had concluded that the heir to the Saudi throne – also known as MbS -- ordered the assassination of the journalist, who was an outspoken critic of bin Salman.

In its account of Khashoggi's death, the State Department report acknowledged that he "was killed by government agents

during a visit to the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey," in early October 2018.

"The government initially claimed he had left the consulate in good health but changed its story as facts came to light," the report added.

At a press conference unveiling the document, Ambassador Michael Kozak of the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor claimed that the report relies on facts rather than speculation on Khashoggi's murder case.

"There are two governments that have criminal jurisdiction over the case, the Turkish government and the Saudi government, and they're pushing towards a genuine, transparent, thorough, factual investigation," he said.

Both Istanbul and Riyadh have been conducting an investigation into the murder, but

the joint inquiry has made little progress, with the Turkish authorities considering their Saudi counterparts uncooperative.

Ankara wants the suspects in the case to stand trial in Turkey, but Riyadh refuses to extradite them.

Khashoggi was killed and his body was dismembered by a Saudi hit squad after being lured into the consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018.

Turkey, which said it was in possession of audio evidence of Khashoggi's murder soon after he failed to exit the consulate, has indirectly suggested that bin Salman was behind the journalist's killing.

After weeks of outright denial, Riyadh eventually acknowledged the "premeditated" murder but has attempted to shift the blame to bin Salman's underlings and away from the prince himself.

France Joins Pressure Campaign to Prevent Syria's Idlib Liberation

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – France has joined a pressure campaign on Syria to prevent the liberation of northwestern Idlib Province, the last terrorist stronghold in the Arab country, as the army edges closer to final victory over the terrorist groups.

The French Foreign Ministry called for an immediate end to the anti-terror fight in Idlib.

The request followed fresh airstrikes on Syria by the Zionist regime, which are usually viewed as attempts to prop up terrorists suffering defeats at the hands of Syrian government forces.

Also recently, an official in the so-called National Syrian Army announced that the Turkey-backed terrorist group would send reinforcements to the frontlines of the town Khan Shaykhun in Idlib province.

Idlib remains the only large area in the hands of anti-Damascus terrorists after the Syrian army -- backed by Iran and Russia -- managed to undo terrorist gains across the country and wrest control of almost all of Syrian soil.

In January, the UN estimated that there were 20,000 terrorists in Idlib associated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, 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.

Over the past week, Syrian forces have managed to advance on Idlib's southern edges with the aim of retaking Khan Shaykhun, which lies on a key highway connecting the capital Damascus with the city of Aleppo.

Latest reports said terrorists have now resorted

to their old tactics of beheading Syrian soldiers.

In the last few days alone, the terrorist elements released at least five videos of beheading Syrian troops in Idlib's southern countryside.

On Friday, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, stressed that Syria has withstood "a universal war" and is now "moving steadily towards the final victory."

Earlier this month, American and Turkish officials agreed to quickly set up a Turkey-based operations center "to coordinate and manage the implementation of the safe zone" in northeastern Syria.

The area is currently under the control of the U.S.-backed Kurdish militants, who are considered terrorists by Ankara.

Zionist Minister Resigns Amidst Corruption Allegations

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's welfare minister has resigned from the cabinet following attorney general's decision to charge him of corruption.

Haim Katz, the regime's welfare minister and a lawmaker with Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, offered his resignation in a letter handed to the prime minister.

"The attempt to slander me and render my motives impure, while my work as a lawmaker was done honestly and in good faith, is baseless and bound to fail," he wrote, according to a statement released on his behalf.

The regime's Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced on Wednesday that Katz will be charged with fraud and breach of trust.

In his notice, Mandelblit said

that Katz has advanced legislation aimed to provide financial benefits to Equital, a major Israeli holding company owned by Katz's close associate and his financial adviser.

Under the regime's regulations, Katz had to resign after the announcement of the expected indictment. However, Katz said he intends not to resign from the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in order to enjoy the parliamentary immunity bestowed to lawmakers.

The affair comes at a bad timing to Netanyahu's Likud, who is seeking to be re-elected in the Sept. 17 elections.

Netanyahu himself faces several corruption allegations and is expected to stand for a hearing before Mandelblit would decide whether to press charges against him.