

Zionist Court Lets Military Hold Bodies of Martyred Palestinians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A Zionist regime court has ruled that the military can withhold bodies of the Palestinians that it kills to grant the occupying regime leverage in future negotiations with Palestinians, drawing immediate condemnation from Palestinians.

The verdict was issued after a majority vote by an expanded panel of seven judges.

The Zionist regime's judges alleged in their decision that withholding Palestinians' bodies falls within the purview of the regime's security, and claimed that the practice was not illegal under international law governing armed conflict.

The measure was adopted in response to a petition by the families of six Palestinians, whose bodies are currently in the regime's possession.

It reverses a 2017 High Court ruling on the matter, which determined that holding on to bodies was illegal, in a "violation of human rights as well as the rights of the deceased and his family."

It noted at the time that the regime's authorities could hold on to the bodies of Palestinians who had purportedly committed "particularly egregious" acts of "terror," and that the decision should be anchored in a specific and explicit law.

Zionist troops regularly take custody of Palestinians' bodies. Sometimes the bodies are later returned to their families for burial. At other times, they are withheld to prevent celebratory funerals in Palestinian towns, or with a view to using them in negotiations to retrieve the bodies



A Zionist regime court has ruled that the military can withhold bodies of the Palestinians that it kills to grant the occupying regime leverage in future negotiations with Palestinians.

of Zionist troops held by resistance groups.

According to Palestinian campaigners pushing for the release of the remains of those killed by Zionist troops, the Tel Aviv regime currently holds over 300 Palestinian bodies.

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates censured the decision and described it as an extension of the regime's violations and its continued crimes and punitive

measures against Palestinian people.

"Once again, the so-called judicial system in the occupying power, including the Israeli High Court, proved that it is an integral part of the occupation system, and has nothing to do with the principles and foundations of justice, and issues its decisions based on what the colonial system itself determines and decides for it," the minister said in a statement released on Tuesday.

Former Erdogan Ally to Form Rival Party Before Year-End



Former Turkish deputy prime minister Ali Babacan (L) will form a new political party by the end of the year to challenge President Tayyip Erdogan's (R) ruling AK Party.

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – Former Turkish deputy prime minister Ali Babacan will form a new political party by the end of the year to challenge President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AK Party, announcing his intentions in an interview published Tuesday after months of speculation.

Babacan resigned from the AK Party (AKP) in July, citing "deep differences". He was a

founding member of the AKP, serving as economy and foreign minister during its first years in power before becoming deputy prime minister, a role he held from 2009 to 2015.

Babacan, along with former AKP president Abdullah Gul, has long been rumored to be planning a rival party. But a stinging defeat for the party in June Istanbul mayoral elections

accelerated the efforts.

In his first comments since resigning from the AKP, Babacan told the Karar newspaper that the ruling party had strayed from its founding principles and that he was still working to find like-minded individuals to forge a team to lead the new party. He added that Gul is supportive but not formally included.

"This will take some time," he told the newspaper. "We want the party to be formed before 2020. The quality is very important here."

Growing worries over judicial impartiality, a recession that sent unemployment and inflation soaring, and impatience among Turks over hosting 3.6 Syrian refugees has trimmed Erdogan's voter base.

Any further erosion could deeply hurt the AKP, which relies on an alliance with a nationalist party to hang on to its parliamentary majority.

Babacan said Turkey's economy needed to emerge from a

spiral and, given the plentiful liquidity in world markets, to "urgently" lower its risk premium. The erosion of the judiciary and some foreign policies are in part to blame for the economic problems, he said.

"Values like human rights, freedoms, populist democracy and the rule of law are ones that we always defend and believe in. These principles are not a periodic political preference for us," he said, adding that the AKP was committed to these in the past.

"After all these achievements, the condition in which Turkey is currently in truly saddens us. When we look at why it is in this condition, the main reason is that it has strayed from the practice of these values and principles."

Reuters reported in June that Babacan, along with Gul, would launch his political party this year. That was on the heels of the AKP's Istanbul loss, which marked the worst defeat in Erdogan's political career.

Nasrallah... (Continued From Page One)

He was referring to a recent Hezbollah retaliation in which the resistance movement fired Kornet anti-tank missiles at an Israeli armored vehicle inside Occupied Palestine.

The target was hit with its occupants in a blow to Israel after Hezbollah had discovered dummy soldiers planted inside armored vehicles in order to deceive the Lebanese resistance.

"Lebanon respects (UN Security Council Resolution) 1701 and Hezbollah is part of the government that respects this resolution, but if Israel attacks, there will be no redlines at all," Nasrallah warned.

He also warned that Israel would cease to exist if there were to be any war on Iran.

"Any war on Iran will ignite the region and destroy countries and people," he said. "It will be a war against the entire axis of resistance. We will not be neutral in the battle between right and wrong. This war will be the end of Israel and the American hegemony and presence in the region."

Palestine, Nasrallah said, is "the central cause" of the resistance. He stressed that while the resistance's "eternal commitment to Palestine's cause has costs us a lot, it is our commitment".

Nigerian... (Continued From Page One)

Zakzaky returned to Nigeria along with his wife after announcing an early departure from India, citing obstruction of his treatment under the influence of the Nigerian government.

They have been in prison for four years despite a high court ruling granting them freedom.

The house of the 66-year-old cleric was raided in 2015 during which Sheikh Zakzaky was beaten and lost his left eye. His wife sustained serious wounds, and three of his sons and more than 300 of his followers were killed.

Trump... (Continued From Page One)

due to his hawkish position on Iran -- supporting Trump's exit from the Iran nuclear deal -- but he soon began to clash with the president's vision for diplomacy in North Korea and most recently on Afghanistan.

The campaign by Trump allies to push Bolton out of the administration had ramped up in recent weeks, multiple sources told CNN.

The president had received multiple phone calls and appeals to replace Bolton with someone who agreed with him more and was willing to follow through with his decisions when he didn't. This was something Trump heard since he hired Bolton -- but people noticed the president's frustration with him was growing in recent weeks so they upped the pressure.

A senior administration official echoed that sentiment, telling CNN that Trump has been getting more and more irritated with Bolton over the past several months for his statements on Iran, Venezuela and now Afghanistan.

Trump no longer believed Bolton could advocate for the president's agenda, and instead felt he was harming his credibility, the official said.

Trump also felt like Bolton wasn't a forceful enough advocate for him in the media -- and that when he did make appearances, he wasn't convincing enough, since it was evident he didn't believe in some of Trump's foreign policy goals, the source added.

Another senior administration official told CNN that White House and national security officials learned about Bolton's firing from Trump's tweet. The official described aides as frantically trying to figure things out following the tweet.

Utah Republican Sen. Mitt Romney called his departure a "huge loss" for the Trump administration and said he was "very unhappy" to learn Bolton was leaving.

But fellow Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a leading Bolton critic, told CNN that "the chances of war worldwide go greatly down" with his firing.

"He has a naive view that believes we should recreate the world in our own image by toppling countries by violent overthrow and somehow democracy will prevail," Paul said about Bolton.

Taliban... (Continued From Page One)

vowed to continue their fight against "foreign occupation."

"What more violence can they bring?" Afghan presidential spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said in an interview. "What else can they do? You know they have killed 300 civilians in the past three weeks. ... So we will not be surprised if we see more attacks, but they have already done it."

Political analyst Waheed Muzhda was gloomy about the prospects for the country.

"Unfortunately all the months of efforts came to an end with no result," he said, "and I think the fight in Afghanistan will continue for long years."

Tens of thousands of Afghan civilians and more than 2,400 American troops have been killed in nearly 18 years of war that began when the U.S. invaded after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when they were ousted by the U.S. military for hosting the mastermind of 9/11, Osama bin Laden.

Afghans were wary of fresh violence in part because Trump's announcement came shortly before a string of highly sensitive days in Afghanistan, including Monday's anniversary of the killing of anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, the major holy day of Ashura on Tuesday, and Wednesday's 9/11 anniversary.

There were no immediate reports of any major attacks in the country, but the streets of the capital, Kabul, were largely empty as armed supporters of Massoud, a rare Afghan unifying figure who was killed two days before 9/11, roamed in flag-draped vehicles.

In calling off negotiations, Trump cited a Taliban car bombing Thursday near the U.S. Embassy in Kabul that killed an American service member along with 11 others. The insurgent group has defended its continued attacks even while a deal was taking shape, saying they were intended to strengthen its bargaining position.

China... (Continued From Page 2)

In a meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in Beijing late last month, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said disregard for international law has increased in recent years, describing this as a reason for boosting international cooperation between Iran and China.

"Inattention to international regulations and humiliation of international law has been on the rise and this is why the two countries of Iran and China, as age-old friends, need to further expand their bilateral cooperation," Iran's top diplomat said in the meeting.

Elsewhere in her presser, the Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman called on all parties to the JCPOA to remain "committed to the full and effective implementation of the comprehensive agreement."

She expressed hope that the relevant parties would hold meetings to push the Iranian nuclear situation to ease.

"China will continue to make joint efforts with all sides concerned to this end," Hua added.

Bolton's... (Continued From Page 2)

Chabahar port complex on Iran's coast along the Gulf of Oman, coveting it as a transportation corridor to reach land-locked Afghanistan as well as the resource-rich countries of Central Asia, Russia and beyond.

While the U.S. has exempted Indian investments in Chabahar from sanctions, Chegini said the pace of development by Indian companies was much slower than that of Chinese companies working on the development of the Gwadar port in neighboring Pakistan.

"India is serious, but whatever China is spending and working in Gwadar is not comparing with India," he said. "We would like our brothers from India to be much more active in Chabahar."

Chegini, nevertheless, was sanguine about the prospects of relations, noting that bilateral trade that stood at \$13.7 billion is currently at \$18 billion, despite the loss of oil revenues.

"There is a capacity to promote trade to \$50 billion," he said.

Up to 15 Daesh Terrorists Killed in Airdrop Operation in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The death toll of the Daesh terrorists in an airdrop operation on the terrorist group's positions in Iraq's central province of Salahudin has risen to 15, the Iraqi military says.

The Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) conducted an airdrop operation on Daesh positions in the rugged area of Mteibijah near the provincial border with neighboring Diyala province, Yahya Rasoul, spokesman of the Iraqi Joint Operations Command, said in a statement.

The troops killed 15 Daesh terrorists and captured nine others, along with destroying several hideouts, tunnels and training camp for the militants, Rasoul said.

Earlier, Mohammed al-Bazi from Salahudin's provincial police told

Xinhua that the CTS airdrop operation killed six Daesh terrorists and captured four others.

Iraqi security forces repeatedly carried out operations to take control of Mteibijah area from Daesh terrorists, but the vast rugged land and nearby Himreen mountainous area have made it difficult for them to completely clear the area of the terrorists.

The security situation in Iraq was dramatically improved after Iraqi security forces fully defeated the Daesh terrorists across the country late in 2017.

Daesh remnants, however, have since melted in urban areas or resorted to deserts and rugged areas as safe havens, carrying out frequent hit-and-run attacks against security forces and civilians.

Lebanese Man Injures 15 in Shooting

BEIRUT (Xinhua) – A Lebanese national on Tuesday fired shots and wounded 15 citizens in Kfour in southern Lebanon, sources at Lebanon's Internal Security Forces told Xinhua.

Hussein Nehme, 38 years old, fired around 200 shots by three hunting weapons at a number of houses and citizens in his neigh-

borhood which resulted in wounding 15 citizens.

The sources said that members of the Lebanese army and internal security forces surrounded Nehme's house and arrested him after he broke into a room to hide while taking four members of his family as human shields.

The sources added that Nehme was transferred to the international security center in Nabatieh for investigations.

"Nehme's wife told investigators that her husband suffers from mental disorders and he hadn't been taking his medication for the past three days," the sources added.