

RIYADH (Reuters) – Jailed Saudi women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul has been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize after being put forward by group of Norwegian and Canadian politicians. Hathloul, along with at least a dozen other women's rights activists, were arrested over a year ago as Saudi Arabia ended a ban on women driving cars, which many of the detainees had long campaigned for. Local media tarred them as traitors. The case has drawn global criticism and provoked anger in European capitals and the US Congress following last year's murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate.

*Thought for Today*  
No eminence is more exalting than piety; no companion can prove more useful than politeness; no heritage is better than culture; no leader is superior to Divine Guidance.  
Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## 'U.S. Can't Be Trusted at All, Stabs Allies in Back



Secretary General of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah delivers a televised speech at Sayed al-Shohadaa Complex in the Lebanese capital city of Beirut on October 8, 2019.

BEIRUT (Press TV) – The secretary general of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has warned against placing trust in the United States, emphasizing that Washington cannot be trusted at all as it betrays own allies in a surreptitious way and does not stand committed to any agreement.

"No one can rely on (the United States of) America and an agreement struck with it because of the latter's disloyalty and

treachery," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in an address to his supporters in a televised speech at Sayed al-Shohadaa Complex in the Lebanese capital city of Beirut.

Nasrallah then pointed to President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw US forces from northeastern Syria, saying, "America broke faith with Kurds at once, and abandoned them. Such a fate awaits anyone who trusts Washington."

"Americans can't be trusted at all since they break promise with anyone who depends on them, and left them alone," the Hezbollah chief said.

White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement on Sunday that Washington had begun withdrawing U.S. troops from Syria's border with Turkey, adding that the American forces "will not support or be involved in the (Turkish) operation" and "will no lon-

ger be in the immediate area."

Trump on Monday defended the decision to withdraw US troops from northern Syria, saying it was too costly to keep supporting its allies.

"The Kurds fought with us but were paid massive amounts of money and equipment to do so. They have been fighting Turkey for decades," he said in a series of tweets.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on the same day that the Turkish army was ready to launch operations against militants of the People's Protection Units (YPG), the backbone of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), at any moment.

"There is a phrase that we always say: we can come any night without warning," the Turkish president told reporters in televised remarks. "It is absolutely out of the question for us to further tolerate the threats from these terrorist groups."

SDF later warned that a Turkish military invasion would spark a major resurgence of the Daesh terrorist group, and vowed to battle Turkey's military.

Ankara views the YPG as the Syria branch of the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant group, which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984.

## 'U.S. Strikes in Afghanistan Killed at Least 30 Civilians in May'



Afghan villagers carrying a dead body on a stretcher outside a hospital following an airstrike in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on September 23, 2019.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. air strikes on alleged Taliban drug labs in western Afghanistan killed at least 30 civilians, including children, according to the United Nations.

The UN said it had credible reports of a further 30 deaths in the May strikes but had not verified them.

The U.S. said it had targeted Taliban-run methamphetamine labs which helped fund the militant group.

But according to the UN, drug labs and associated workers cannot lawfully be designated as targets.

U.S. forces hit more than 60 alleged drug production sites in Farah Province and neighboring Nimroz Province in the strikes on 5 May.

A UN delegation that visited the site of the attacks and conducted face-to-face interviews with residents concluded that there were 39 verified casualties - including 14 children - of whom 30 died.

The UN said it had also found credible evidence of at least 30

more deaths, the majority of whom it said were women and children.

According to the UN report, the sites were not exclusively run by Taliban but also by ordinary criminal networks as well - making them illegitimate targets for military strikes.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) disputed the UNAMA findings and claimed its "precision" strikes had accurately targeted meth labs.

UNAMA has previously blamed both the U.S. military and the Taliban militants for a spike in civilian deaths in Afghanistan. In its annual report, UNAMA said that civilian deaths in 2018 had increased 11 percent compared to 2017, with 3,804 people killed, including 927 children.

The US invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 and overthrew a Taliban regime in power at the time. But U.S. forces have remained bogged down there through the presidencies of George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and now Donald Trump.

## 'Saudi-Led Militants Rape Several Children in Yemen'

SANAA (Dispatches) – An international human rights organization has revealed that militants affiliated to the Saudi-UAE coalition have raped several children in southwestern Yemen, calling for legal action against them.

The Stockholm-based International Peace Organization for Relief and Human Rights prepared a field report saying that 12 children, some of them as young as 8, were raped by members of the Saudi-led coalition which fights and has occupied some regions of Yemen, including Ta'iz city near the Strait of Bab al-Mandab.

The report includes testimonies of family members of four male victims who have disclosed the Saudi-UAE-led militants have raped their children in the past 8 months.

They said that in two cases, the children were raped by members of al-Islahi party which is a branch of Ikhwan al-Muslimoum in Yemen and an ally of Saudi Arabia.

An investigation by the Amnesty International had also revealed in March that children as young as eight years old had been raped in the Yemeni city of Ta'iz. The suspected perpetrators, including members of militias backed by the Saudi Arabia-led Coalition, are yet to

be held to account.

The families of four boys told Amnesty International that their sons had been sexually assaulted in a series of incidents over the past months.

"The heartbreaking testimonies of these young survivors and their families expose how the ongoing conflict has rendered children vulnerable to being sexually exploited in a city plagued by weak security and institutions. These victims and their families have been left unprotected and alone to face the horrific ordeal of sexual abuse and its aftermath," said Heba Morayef, Regional Director for the Middle East and North Af-

rica at Amnesty International.

Amnesty International had documented four cases of sexual violence, namely the rape of three children and the attempted sexual assault of a fourth.

These cases documented by Amnesty International did not appear to be the only incidents. Families and local activists reported at least two other cases in which families were too afraid to talk, fearing reprisal from local militias that are largely backed by members of the Saudi Arabia-led Coalition in Yemen. Two of the four affected families had had to relocate, fearing reprisals from militias.

## Turkey Pushed to Close Incirlik for U.S.

ANKARA (Sputnik) – Turkey must ban the U.S. forces from using the Incirlik airbase in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to Ankara over its plans to launch a new military operation in northern Syria, the head of Turkey's Patriotic Party (Vatan) said on Wednesday.

"The best possible Turkish response to the U.S. threats is cooperation with Damascus and closure of the Incirlik base for the United States. The U.S. is behaving toward us as an enemy and there are even opinions [in the U.S.] that Turkey

must be excluded from NATO," Dogu Perincek said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced a military operation in neighboring Syria, east of the Euphrates River, to clear the border area of Kurdish militias, seen as terrorists in Turkey, create a security zone and accommodate Syrian refugees there. Following that, Trump threatened to destroy the Turkish economy if Ankara acts in Syria "off-limits."

He noted that the United States had

provided the Kurdistan Workers' Party, banned in Turkey, with 30,000 trucks with weapons.

"This opened a real front against Turkey, which once again demonstrates that the U.S. is viewing Turkey as an enemy," Perincek added.

Turkey designates Kurdish groups in southern Turkey and northern Syria and Iraq as terrorist organizations. Damascus has repeatedly called Turkey's inroad into Syria illegal and urged Ankara to withdraw its troops.

## Zionist Court Gives Palestinian 18 Years in Jail

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – An Israeli military court has sentenced a Palestinian to 18 years in prison and imposed a hefty fine on him in keeping with the Zionist regime's racial profiling and its policy of repression, abuse and deliberate medical negligence.

On Wednesday, the Ofer military court near the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah ordered 57-year-old Raed Mohammed Badwan to pay a fine of 500,000 Israeli shekels (over \$142,000).

Badwan has been held in the Ofer prison since August 6, 2015, and has attended more than 56 trials ever since he was arrested. He suffers from several chronic diseases, such as heart disorder, high blood pressure and diabetes, and has more than ten gunshot wounds on his body.

The Palestinian was arrested for allegedly carrying out a run-over operation on the 60th Street near the town of Sinjil northeast of Ramallah. Zionist troops fired 12 bullets at his car, all of which lodged in his body.

Badwan was transferred to the intensive care unit at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem al-Quds, where he underwent surgery. Doctors removed six bullets, but the rest remained in various parts of his body, including the neck, head, chest, hand and back.

On Tuesday, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) sent an urgent appeal to the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Michael Lynk, and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Nils Melzer, concerning the situation of Palestinian detainee Samer al-Arbeed.

The PCHR argued that Israel's internal spy service, Shin Bet, employs torture to investigate Palestinian prisoners, emphasizing that extraordinary measures used by Israeli interrogators have led to the deterioration of Arbeed's medical condition.