

Hezbollah Targets Drone in South Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's Hezbollah has targeted a drone over the country's south with "appropriate weapons" forcing it to leave Lebanese airspace, al-Manar TV reported, citing a statement from the resistance movement. The Zionist regime confirmed that an anti-aircraft missile had been launched from the Lebanese territory at one of its drones but the unmanned aircraft had not been struck. Al-Mayadeen television channel and Unews Press Agency said the incident took place on Thursday, as Hezbollah shot a missile at the unmanned aircraft encroaching on the Lebanese airspace over Nabatiyeh.

Bear sorrows and calamities patiently, otherwise you will never be happy. One who comes into power often oppresses.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Yemen's Houthis Down U.S.-Made Drone Near Saudi Border

Petition Demands Norway Impose Sanctions on Zionist Regime



The undated photo shows a ScanEagle drone operated by US Marine forces in western Iraq.

SANAA (Dispatches) – Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement has said its air defenses downed a U.S.-made ScanEagle drone near the Saudi border, the group's military spokesman said. The drone was gathering intelligence, Yahya Sarea, spokesman for

the Houthi military, said in a Twitter post. Yemeni forces have managed to down numerous U.S.-made drones in recent years, notably destroying a U.S.-operated advanced MQ-9 Reaper attack drone most recently in August.

The U.S. has been a major backer of Saudi Arabia ever since it formed a so-called military coalition campaign against Yemen in March 2015 in a bid to bring the government of former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power.

Resistance by Yemeni forces, led by the Houthi Ansarullah movement, has, however, pushed the Saudi war to a stalemate, largely stalling Riyadh's ambitions in the country.

The war has, nonetheless, taken a heavy toll on the country's population and infrastructure.

On Thursday, the U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) published a report saying that 100,000 people have been killed since the onset of the conflict.

The report said 20,000 people had been killed only this year, making the second deadliest year of the war after 2018.

The newly published death-toll comes as the U.S. is by far Saudi Arabia's largest arms supplier, with Riyadh spending about 70 percent of its arms imports on U.S.-made weapons.

According to numerous reports, the supplied weaponry has been a lead factor in mass civilian deaths in the country.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, which has signed lucrative arms deals with Saudi Arabia, has repeatedly rejected calls to end its ongoing arms exports to the country.



A Palestinian protester is treated by medics after being wounded during an anti-occupation demonstration along the fence between Gaza and the Israeli-occupied territories, east of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on October 25, 2019.

OSLO (Dispatches) – Dozens of Norway's leading lawyers believe that the Zionist regime violates international law and does not deserve the preferential treatment it currently enjoys.

A group of 44 lawyers, including award-winning luminaries and distinguished professionals such as professor Jan Fridthjof Bernt, have called on Norway to impose sanctions on the Zionist regime for its violations of international law.

The petition called "Defend international law" was published by the newspaper Dagsavisen.

The Zionist regime has annexed East al-Quds and the Golan Heights and has announced the annexation of the Jordan Valley – without having any major consequences, the petition stressed.

Between March 2018 and September 2019 alone, the lawyers emphasized, 309 Palestinians who have participated in protest marches along the Gaza Strip fence were killed. In the past year alone, 56 Palestinian children were killed by Zionist troops, again without any repercussions, including from Norway. The number of Palestinians who have died at the hands of the regime is comparable to the number of murders in the occupied territories: 103 people were

victims of homicide in 2018, compared with 136 in 2017, according to the local media. For comparison's sake, police in the U.S., which is better known for police killings, fatally shot approximately one person for every 19 murder victims in 2017.

"Norwegian authorities and politicians must restore respect for international law and work to ensure that Israel's long-standing and systematic breaches of international driving rules are met with sanctions", the petition said.

The authors of the petition stressed that the absence of an international reaction to the regime's violation of international law, human rights and humanitarian law raises concerns.

"While Israel's serious and persistent violations are only verbally criticized, other countries that violate international law are exposed to reactions from the international community through concrete actions and sanctions", the petition said.

On the contrary, the Zionist regime is the only so-called "country" in the world to have been granted a special status in the Norwegian government's Granavolden platform that allows Oslo to "facilitate enhanced research and development cooperation, trade, tourism and cultural exchange with Israel".

'CIA-Backed Afghan Units Carry Out Illegal Killings, Other Abuse'

KABUL (Dispatches) – Afghan security units backed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have carried out extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, indiscriminate air strikes and other rights abuses and should be disbanded, a rights group says.

Human Rights Watch said it investigated 14 cases in which CIA-backed Afghan counterinsurgency forces committed serious abuses in Afghanistan between late 2017 and mid-2019.

"They are illustrative of a larger pattern of serious law-of-war violations — some amounting to war crimes — that extends to all provinces in Afghanistan where these paramilitary forces operate with impunity," the group said in a

report.

A CIA spokesman said the agency conducts its operations "in accordance with law and under a robust system of oversight".

"The Taliban does not operate with any similar rules and - even worse - conducts an extensive propaganda campaign to discredit those who support the legitimate Afghanistan government," said the spokesman, Timothy Barrett.

The Afghan government declined to comment until after publication of the report, but a military official acknowledged that the Afghan special units at times make mistakes.

"Because they carry out the most complicated operations but we are not assassins and

there is oversight and accountability," said the official, who declined to be identified.

The CIA-backed paramilitary forces are notorious in Afghanistan, often drawing complaints from villagers and district authorities for their brutal raids, often under the cover of night.

While Afghan paramilitary forces nominally belong to the main National Directorate of Security (NDS) intelligence service, the CIA-backed forces do not fall under the agency's normal chain of command, nor those of the Afghan or U.S. militaries.

"They largely have been recruited, trained, equipped, and overseen by the CIA," Human Rights Watch said.

"They often have U.S. spe-

cial forces personnel deployed alongside them during kill-or-capture operations; these U.S. forces, primarily Army Rangers, have been seconded to the CIA."

The forces have also been allowed to call in air strikes, which is likely a factor behind a rising toll of civilian casualties in the war. They have also attacked medical facilities and killed staff, the group said.

Human Rights Watch said that in many of the raids it investigated, the Afghan forces seem to have unlawfully targeted civilians because of mistaken identity, poor intelligence or political rivalries.

One case involved the killing of 11 men in the eastern province of Paktia in August.

Daesh Vows Revenge Against U.S. for 'Killing' Baghdadi

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Daesh has confirmed that its ringleader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in a weekend raid by U.S. special forces in northwestern Syria, and vowed revenge against the United States.

The Iraqi rose from obscurity to lead the terrorist group and declare himself "caliph", holding sway over huge areas of Iraq and Syria from 2014-2017 before Daesh's control disintegrated.

The group confirmed his death in an audio tape posted online and said a successor, identified as Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Quraishi, had been appointed.

Aymenn al-Tamimi, a researcher at Swansea University focusing on Daesh, said the name

was unknown but could refer to a leading figure in Daesh called Hajj Abdullah, whom the U.S. State Department had identified as a possible successor.

A former senior figure in the rival terrorist group al-Qaeda in Iraq, he is also known as Mohamed Said Abdelrahman al-Mawla.

Analysts have also named the Saudi Abu Abdullah al-Jizrawi and Abdullah Qaradash, an Iraqi and one of Baghdadi's right-hand men, as potential successors along with the Tunisian Abu Othman al-Tunisi.

A Daesh spokesman warned the United States in the tape to "beware vengeance (against) their nation and their brethren of infidels and apostates".

Baghdadi's death is likely to cause Daesh to splinter, leaving whoever emerges as its new leader with the task of pulling the group back together as a fighting force, according to analysts.

Whether the loss of its leader will in itself affect the group's capabilities is open to debate. Even if it does face difficulties in the transition, the underlying ideology and the hatred it promoted remain attractive to many, analysts say.

Daesh also confirmed the death of its spokesman Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir.

"I think they're trying to send the message, 'Don't think you've destroyed the project just because you've killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and the official spokesman'," Tamimi said.

Zionist Regime Plans 2,300 New Illegal Settler Units

West Bank (Dispatches) – A nongovernmental organization monitoring the Zionist regime's settlement construction activities, Peace Now, says the occupying regime has approved the construction of 2,342 new settler units in the occupied West Bank.

The NGO said in a statement that the decision was taken on October 10 and that 59 percent of the new settler units will be erected in settlements that the regime was supposed to evacuate under a deal with the Palestinians.

According to Peace Now, plans for the construction of 8,337 settler units in the illegal settlements were approved at the beginning of the year, adding that the new development represents an increase of close to 50 percent compared with 2018 when plans for 5,618 housing units were approved.

"This brings the average number of housing units approved in the three years since [US] President [Donald] Trump was

elected, to 6,899 housing units, almost twice the average in the three years preceding them," said the NGO.

Peace Now further stated that settlement construction has increased under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is currently fighting for his political survival after failing to form a coalition administration following September elections.

"Netanyahu continues to sabotage the possibility of a political agreement with the Palestinians by promoting more settlement construction in the West Bank, including in places where Israel may have to evacuate as part of a future agreement," Peace Now said.

According to the NGO's statement, 182 new settlements out of the planned 2,342 new units are due to be built in Mevot Yeriho settlement, which is a former Israeli outpost that Netanyahu administration legalized before the September polls.