

Turkey: Germany, Netherlands Agree to Take Back Daesh Detainees

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly says Germany and the Netherlands has agreed to take back German and Dutch Daesh detainees and their families from Turkey, after Ankara started to repatriate the terrorists this week.

Turkey said it had deported two of the detainees, a German and an American, and added that it will deport another 23 European nationals in the coming days.

Turkey holds hundreds of Daesh suspects in its jails and says it has captured another 287 during its military incursion in northeast Syria against Kurdish YPG militants – an incursion which has further strained ties with its NATO allies.

“We have our own policy and we are implementing it without compromise. Those who want to step out of our way will, but those who don’t will face the consequences,” Soyly said in the



Men allegedly affiliated with the Daesh terrorist group sit on the floor in a prison in the northeastern Syrian city of Hasakah, October 26, 2019.

southeastern province of Van on Wednesday.

“I would like to especially thank two countries here. One is Germany and the other the Netherlands,” he added. “As of last night, they have confirmed that

they will take back terrorists from Daesh who are citizens of their countries and their wives, children and all the others,” he said.

Turkey has said it will deport the detainees to Ireland, Germany, France and Denmark.

French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said on Tuesday that France would take back 11 suspected Daesh members from Turkey. Ireland’s Foreign Minister Simon Coveney also said that two Irish nationals set to be deported from Turkey had the right to return to Ireland.

On Monday, Greek police said that Turkish police came to the border post at the Greek town of Kasanies and requested that one of the detainees, a U.S. citizen of Arab descent, be admitted to Greece as he had been arrested for exceeding his stay in Turkey.

Greek police said that a check carried out in a database of Greek and cooperating countries did not find anything against him, and that the man has been refused entry to Greece and sent back to Turkey. Turkish state media said on Wednesday he was in the buffer zone between Turkey and Greece.

Yemeni...

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The group, which holds Sanaa and most of Yemen’s big urban centers, has carried out brazen missile attacks inside Saudi Arabia in retaliation for the kingdom’s airstrikes.

Several reports have recently said the occupying regime of Israel has offered to help Saudi Arabia and has already carried out airstrikes inside Yemen.

On Tuesday, Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi delivered a grave warning to the Zionist regime against committing any “foolish act” after controversial remarks by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu about Yemen.

“Should Israel perpetrate any foolish act against our nation...our nation would not hesitate to announce a struggle down the divine path against this enemy (Israel),” al-Houthi said in an address on the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

“Nor would we hesitate to deliver deadly blows to Israel and attack the extremely sensitive targets belonging to the usurping regime of Israel,” he added.

His remarks came after Netanyahu claimed that Iran sought to strike Israel from Yemen, using surgical missiles.

“Iran wants to develop precision-guided missiles that can hit any target in Israel within five to ten meters,” Netanyahu claimed in a speech in the occupied Jerusalem Al-Quds. “Iran hopes to use Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen as bases to attack Israel with statistical missiles and precision-guided missiles. That is a great, great danger,” he added.

Reuters which carried Netanyahu’s remarks said they served as “a signal” that Yemen “could come under pre-emptive Israeli attack”.

Al-Houthi, however, said, “The criminal Zionists’ remarks are repetitive.”

“And most remarkable among them (are those of) Zionist war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu, who depicts Yemen as a threat to Israel, and is trying to link this issue to Iran — as is Israel’s wont,” he added.

The movement has invariably voiced support for the Palestinian cause in the face of Israeli aggression.

Al-Houthi said, “Our position of animosity towards Israel — as a plundering regime and the enemy of our Muslim nation — is a value-driven, humanitarian, and moral one as well as being a religious commitment, a position that we share with the freedom-seeking and honorable people of our Muslim nation.”

On Tuesday, the Houthi political bureau strongly condemned Israel’s assassination of a senior Palestinian resistance commander, calling it “treacherous and cowardly”, Yemen’s Al-Masirah television network reported.

The statement said Tel Aviv would not have dared to stage the attack had it not been emboldened by some Arab and Persian Gulf regimes’ rush over the recent years to normalize relations with the occupying regime.

The movement has been defending Yemen against a 2015-present invasion led by Saudi Arabia, one of the Arab states that have been trying rapprochement with Israel.

The statement praised the Palestinian resistance fighters for launching a retaliatory rocket barrage into the occupied lands after the assassination, and their defense of the Palestinian “dignity, freedom, independence, and sanctities.”

It also reiterated the Yemeni people’s alignment with the Palestinian resistance in all the steps and deterrent measures they take against “this brutal Zionist arrogance”, Al-Masirah said.

Worst...

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The exceptionally intense “acqua alta,” or high waters, peaked at 1.87 meters (six feet). Only once since records began in 1923 has the water crept even higher, reaching 1.94 meters in 1966.

“It was unbelievable, the water rose so quickly,” said resident Tiziano Collarin, 59, as he surveyed the damage.

“Windows were blown out, there are those who have lost everything,” he said as the flood alarm rang out to warn those in the canal city that the tide, which had receded somewhat overnight, was coming in once again.

The fire brigade said it had carried out over 250 operations as well as

laying on extra boats as water ambulances.

Around 150 fire fighters were deployed to rescue people stranded on jetties and to recover boats broken free from their moorings.

A 78-year old was killed by electric shock as the waters poured into his home, Italian media reported.

President of the Veneto region Luca Zaia said 80 percent of the city had been submerged, causing “unimaginable damage”.

German tourist Gabi Brueckner, 58, said the nighttime drama had been “horrifying”.

She echoed the mayor in blaming climate change and said she feared like many people that “it will get worse and at some point Venice will drown”.

A massive infrastructure project called MOSE has been underway since 2003 to protect the city, but it has been plagued by cost overruns, corruption scandals and delays.

The plan involves 78 gates that can be raised to protect Venice’s lagoon during high tides -- but a recent attempt to test part of the barrier caused worrying vibrations and engineers discovered parts had rusted.

“They’ve done nothing, neglected it. It doesn’t work and they have stolen six billion euros. The politicians should all be put in jail,” said local Dino Perzolla, 62.

St. Mark’s Square in one of the lowest parts of the city was particularly affected, its vestibule inundated with water.

“It was apocalyptic, enough to give you goosebumps,” said Marina Vector, as she and her husband used buckets to scoop water out of their shop selling Venetian festival masks.

“The storm was so bad it broke the marble flood barrier out front. Nothing’s survived,” she said.

Tables and chairs set out for aperitifs bobbed outside bedraggled luxury hotels, where people of all ages seeking safety from the storm late Tuesday had been forced to climb in through windows after gangways washed away.

“I’ve never seen anything like it in my life. There was a terrifying wind, it was a hurricane. It was horrible,” said local Cristina, as she fought back tears.

Official...

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The province in southeast Iran is at the forefront of the fight against narcotics in Iran as well as the world, Momeni said.

“Iran has spent billions of dollars to create barriers, fences, border checkpoints, optical systems, barbed wires and canals along 2,000 kilometers of borders, and so far, more than 3,800 security forces have been killed in the fight against illegal drugs,” he said.

Momeni said the bulk of the costs paid by Iran is made for confiscating narcotic drugs bound for Europe, but the Islamic Republic is a constant target of attacks by European states under the guise of human rights.

Laboratories producing meth and industrial drugs have mushroomed in record numbers in Afghanistan this year, posing a serious threat to countries around the world, Momeni warned.

“It is true that Iran is fighting against illicit drugs, but the world must also fulfill its responsibilities in this regard,” he said.

In the first seven months since March, about 600 tonnes of narcotics were discovered in Iran, up 15 percent year-on-year, Momeni said.

U.S....

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nuclear site, and that its enriched uranium stockpile has continued to grow.

Tehran remained fully compliant with the JCPOA for an entire year, waiting for the co-signatories to fulfill their obligations by offsetting the impacts of Washington’s bans on the Iranian economy.

As the European parties failed to do so, Tehran moved in May 2019 to suspend its JCPOA commitments in 60-day stages under Articles 26 and 36 of the deal covering Tehran’s legal rights.

Last week, Iran began injecting gas into centrifuges at the Fordow plant as part of its fourth step away from the JCPOA under the supervision of the IAEA.

Tehran has repeatedly said its measures are “reversible” if the European sides shield Iran from the impact of the U.S. sanctions.

Syria’s Christians, Muslims Unite to Support Children of Daesh Sex Slaves

GENOA (Sputnik) – The Christian bishop and Muslim mufti of Syria’s Aleppo are working together to help the children of women who had been kidnapped and raped by Daesh register for an official name, Andrea Avveduto, communications chief for Pro Terra Sancta, a non-profit association operating in Syria, said.

“We are doing a lot for orphans — for children of women who were kidnapped by IS (Daesh) militants. There are 30,000 orphans in Syria who were born by women who were kidnapped by IS. They were just sex slaves of terrorists, and these children do not yet have the possibility to be registered [as a citizen] with a name, and so they cannot have a

future. They cannot be registered because for the state, they are sons born in sin, outside of marriage, so it is not allowed,” Avveduto said.

The association is working with Syria’s Muslim religious officials on this initiative, dubbed “One name one future,” to create a law that would allow these children have a name and be registered as citizens, Avveduto explained.

“Because if they have a name, in future they will be able to have a life, to get an education,” he continued.

The project is supported by bishop George Abou Khazen, Apostolic Vicar of Aleppo, and Mahmoud Akam, Mufti of Aleppo, who first recognized the so-

cial emergency.

“These children are everywhere in Syria. Just in Aleppo, there are 5,000. It’s catastrophic. The idea of this project was generated together by the bishop of Aleppo and mufti of Aleppo. It’s the first multi-religious project in Syria since the beginning of the war,” Avveduto said.

The initiative is currently being promoted through four centers in eastern Aleppo, where the religious community takes care of the children, teaches them “to speak, to read, to hope, with a lot of psychological effort.”

“We teach them to write, to draw. These children draw horrible pictures – bombs or soldiers or people dead,” he continued.

Apart from helping the marginalized children, Pro Terra Sancta is also trying to find permanent jobs for mothers.

“Negotiations with the parliament are difficult, but there is a possibility [of getting its support], because the Mufti also spoke to them. If the Muslims and the Christians are together, there is a hope to win the battle,” he said.

The presence of the Pro Terra Sancta non-profit association, which is run by the Franciscan friars, in the Idlib province of Syria is a unique situation in which the charity’s workers are living under the threat of bombings and hiding their Christian symbols to help local civilians of all creeds satisfy basic needs and survive during the war.

Afghanistan’s Presidential Poll Results Delayed Again

KABUL (AFP) – Preliminary results from Afghanistan’s presidential election have been delayed for a second time, election officials announced Wednesday, a postponement likely to fuel more political uncertainty and fraud allegations.

The September 28 poll has already been marred by a record-low turnout and bickering between the incumbent, President Ashraf Ghani, and his chief rival, Abdullah Abdullah.

The preliminary results were originally due for October 19 -- but the announcement was delayed until November 14, with officials from the Independent Election Commissions (IEC) citing various technical problems. Now that date has been pushed back also.

“Unfortunately due to technical problems and other issues, we will not be able to announce the election results tomorrow,” IEC spokesman Abdul Aziz Ibrahim told AFP on Wednesday, without providing details or a new date.

IEC officials are expected to hold a press conference on the matter on Thursday.

The fresh delay comes shortly after the IEC issued a statement saying it had to stop a planned recount and audit of the votes after some candidates said they would boycott and protest the process, claiming fraud.

The IEC had begun a recount of votes from more than 8,000 polling stations -- almost a third of the total -- on Saturday, but the process was challenged mainly by Abdullah’s supporters.

Abdullah -- who currently works as chief executive in a unity government with Ghani -- has previously raised questions about the validity of some 300,000 additional votes which he says did not come through biometric devices used in the polling, and thus should be invalidated.

“The recounting should be stopped. We are trying to save the process from fraudsters,” he said at a rally of his supporters in Kabul last week.

‘Extradition of Russian Citizen to U.S. Undermines Moscow-Zionist Regime Ties’

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov has expressed his disappointment over the extradition of Russian citizen Alexei Burkov from the Israeli-occupied territories to the U.S. during a meeting with Zionist Charge d’Affaires in Russia Yacov Livne in Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry says.

“During the talks, the diplomats have discussed some current issues on the Russian-Israeli bilateral agenda,” the foreign ministry noted, according to TASS.

“The Russian side has expressed its utmost disappointment with the decision of the Israeli government to extradite Russian national Burkov to the U.S. despite the existing request of the Russian competent bod-

ies for his extradition to Russia. It was noted that such actions undermine the constructive partner relations that have been developing dynamically in recent years between Russia and Israel,” it added.

Burkov has been extradited from the occupied territories to the U.S. He is currently in U.S. custody pending his court verdict set to be announced, the U.S. Department of Justice informed TASS earlier. Burkov was detained during a passport check at Washington’s request while trying to leave the occupied territories on December 13, 2015. His case was considered by the occupying regime’s district court behind closed doors. The American authorities insisted on his extradition as they allegedly had evidence that

Burkov was complicit in cyber-crimes.

Russia earlier filed a request to the regime on Burkov’s extradition.

On October 30, the regime’s minister of judiciary affairs Amir Ohana signed an order on extraditing Burkov to the U.S. On November 3, the Russian’s attorneys lodged an appeal with the supreme court of the regime against the minister’s decision, asking it to ban the extradition. The judge ruled to suspend the extradition procedure to the U.S. until a decision was made on this request. On November 10, the supreme court on Sunday rejected Burkov’s appeal. His lawyer told TASS that the decision was final and nothing would prevent his extradition to the U.S.