

# UN Team Reports New Evidence Against Daesh in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – A UN investigative team says it has made ‘significant progress’ in collecting new sources of evidence in Iraq against the Daesh terrorist group, including over 2 million call records that strengthen cases against perpetrators of crimes against the Izadi minority in 2014

The team also reported progress in its investigations of the mass killings of unarmed cadets and military personnel from the Tikrit Air Academy in June 2014 and crimes committed by Daesh terrorists in Mosul from 2014 to 2016, AP reported.

In a report to the UN Security Council, the investigative team said it is continuing to engage with the Iraqi government on pending legislation that would allow the country to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by Daesh.

“In the coming six months, the team will continue its work with the government of Iraq in order to



*Suspected Daesh terrorists, who fled from the front-line Syrian village of Baghuz, near the Iraqi border, sit blindfolded in the back of a pickup truck after being taken into custody by the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) for screening, near the Omar oil field in the countryside of Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr on January 30, 2019.*

capitalize on this opportunity, with a view to securing the commencement of domestic proceedings based on evidence collected by the team,”

the report said.

The latest report by the investigative team said that as a result of its expanded cooperation with the Iraqi

judiciary, security services and Directorate of Military Intelligence, it stands “at a pivotal moment in its work.”

Cooperation with the Iraqi judiciary in obtaining call data records and with Iraqi security services in extracting and analyzing data from cellphones, SIM cards and mass storage devices previously used by Daesh “have the potential to represent a paradigm shift in the prosecution of ISIL (Daesh) members,” the investigators said.

The data has provided “access to a wide range of internal ISIL documents, cell data, videos and images,” they said.

The team said it is already identifying evidence that can fill gaps in ongoing proceedings as a result of the cell phone data as well as from putting documents held by Iraqi authorities in digital form, and using enhanced discovery and evidence-management systems.

## New... (Continued From Page One)

testing for the coronavirus outside of hospitals meant that nursing home residents and staff weren’t tested “at a time when the spread of the virus was at its most rampant.”

The lawmakers said that the failure of Public Health England, the body responsible for testing, “to publish the evidence on which its testing policy was based is unacceptable for a decision that may have had such significant consequences.”

Figures released Tuesday also revealed the economic toll of the pandemic in Britain. The statistics office said that unemployment claims in Britain jumped 69% in April, after the country went into lockdown to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Jobless claims surged by 856,000 to 2.1 million in April as compared to the month before.

## Cyber... (Continued From Page One)

Iranian officials have said the attacks worked to the U.S. and Israeli detriment, helping improve the Islamic Republic’s readiness against acts of sabotage.

Last year, Minister of Information and Communications Technology Muhammad Javad Azari Jahromi said Iran had developed an indigenous firewall securing its sensitive industrial facilities against cyber terrorism.

The firewall “practically neutralizes industrial sabotage, such as Stuxnet, in electrical grids and suchlike,” he wrote.

Gholamreza Jalali, the head of Iran’s Civil Defense Organization which is in charge of cyber security, has said Iran is taking legal action against the U.S. over repeated cyber attacks and threats, while it is putting in place robust security measures to protect its vital infrastructure.

In February, government officials said the Iranian internet service had suffered hours of disruption in what telecoms authorities said was the result of DDoS cyber attack.

The attack was dealt with immediately using the Iranian Information Technology Fortress, known as DEJFA, senior telecoms ministry official Sajjad Bonabi said at the time.

## U.S. ... (Continued From Page One)

healthy sailors who have finished quarantine and then return to sea.

The virus resurgence was a surprise wrinkle.

“We’re at the time where expect the unexpected and deal with it. There’s no good news. There’s no bad news. It’s COVID and we don’t understand it completely,” said Sardiello. “We’re executing according to plan to return to sea, and fighting through the virus is a part of that.”

As of Monday, 14 sailors had tested positive for a second time, and 30 others who came in contact with them were sent ashore for quarantine. All 14 had previously tested positive for the virus and had gone through at least two weeks of isolation. Before they were allowed to go back to the ship, all had to test negative twice in a row, with the tests separated by at least a day or two.

The sudden reappearance of the virus reflects a broader puzzle for health and science experts. It may suggest that the test wasn’t given properly or that the virus wasn’t in the nasal passages but was still elsewhere. There also are questions about whether the virus level can sometimes be too low for detection.

Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Daniel Wright said a few sailors who work for him were among those who tested positive again.

“They were obviously discouraged at first,” Wright said in an interview from the Roosevelt, adding that one sailor had just returned to the ship, had unpacked and was eager to get back to work. “The nice thing is that the majority of them have little to no symptoms at all and are just waiting for that final check in the box with a clean bill of health so they could join the rest of the crew.”

Wright said that while things were difficult in the early days of the outbreak, morale is better now as sailors look forward to getting back to sea, wrapping up their deployment and heading home.

“Half the crew would, I’m sure, be happy to just sail straight home to San Diego once we’re ready,” he said. But he added that this is some sailors’ first deployment and some sailors’ last, so “to be able to finish something that they started back in January — it’s a good milestone for all of us to shoot for.”

After the outbreak was discovered and the ship docked in Guam, more than 4,000 crew members went ashore for testing and

quarantine, while about 800 remained on the ship to protect and run the high-tech systems, including the nuclear reactors that run the vessel.

In recent weeks, sailors were methodically brought back on board, while the others who had remained went ashore for quarantine.

Sardiello, a former Roosevelt captain, was abruptly sent back to the ship in early April to take command after Capt. Brett Crozier was fired for urging his commanders to take faster action to stem the virus outbreak onboard.

After a preliminary review last month, Adm. Mike Gilday, the Navy’s top officer, recommended that Crozier be reinstated as ship captain. But the Navy decided to conduct the broader investigation.

That review, which effectively delays a decision on Crozier’s reinstatement, is supposed to be done by the end of the month.

## Envoy... (Continued From Page 2)

was preparing a legal argument that the U.S. would remain a participant in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA—already renounced by the U.S. president—as part of an intricate strategy to pressure the UN Security Council to extend an arms embargo on Tehran.

According to Pompeo’s plan, bound to be opposed by many of Washington’s European allies, the US would, in essence, claim it legally remains a “participant state” in the nuclear accord only for the purposes of invoking a “snapback” that would restore the UN sanctions on Iran that were in place before the nuclear deal.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi blasted the U.S. government’s unilateral policies, saying such policies have caused multiple crises and challenges for the world.

“The United States’ unilateral policies are lethal poison to the world community and exacerbate the world’s already complex situation,” Kharrazi said.

“The current inefficiency in multilateralism stems from the excessive demand and domineering inclinations of the U.S. government which tries to impose its hegemony and unilateralism on others,” he added.

The official then underlined the formation of a “new world multilateralism” system and “new world unity” through which all nations, especially the Southern ones, have a voice, and therefore, the new players will have a share in the international arena.

He stressed the need to prevent political interference of major powers in international bodies, such as the WHO, the IMF, and the World Bank, adding that when the international institutions are under the influence of arrogant powers, other countries lose their trust in them.

## VP... (Continued From Page 2)

companies have received permission for the export of testing kits.

Iran has now the capacity to produce one million cellulose-based testing kits a day and 1.5 million PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) based kits per month, he added.

In April, Sattari inaugurated a plant manufacturing coronavirus diagnostic test kits, saying the local experts were manufacturing a broad range of equipment for the battle with COVID-19, including surgery room apparatuses, medical ventilators and masks.

## Crushing... (Continued From Page 2)

in various military spheres, such as ground, aerial and naval combat, electronic and aerospace industries, and missile capabilities as a thorn in the side of the enemies, the general said the Defense Ministry’s qualitative and quantitative capabilities have grown by several times during the first two years of the current administration’s term.

Highlighting Iran’s remarkable progress in the air defense industry, Hatami said a range of homegrown air defense systems that have come into operation have secured the country’s airspace, the Iranian government’s official website reported.

He added that the Iranian Armed Forces have turned threats into opportunities and made great advances over the past four decades by relying on domestic capacities.

Brigadier General Hatami also highlighted the Defense Ministry’s contribution to the coronavirus response immediately after the outbreak of the contagious disease in Iran, stressing that the world has acknowledged Iran’s national unity and mobilization in dealing with the virus in spite of the severe sanctions.

# UAE Jet Repatriates 26 Zionists Stranded in Morocco

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) – A jet belonging to an Emirati royal has taken a group of Israelis who were stranded in Morocco for over two months back to the occupied territories.

Morocco helped facilitate the flight which landed in the occupied territories last week.

The 26 Zionists, who were part of an original group of 36, returned to the occupied territories after an operation flew them back from the French capital Paris, having flown there the day before

from Casablanca’s Mohammed V Airport. The remaining ten are believed to have died as a result of coronavirus.

According to the Jerusalem Post, the repatriation operation was a result of secretive negotiations between the Zionist regime and the Moroccan governments over a month. Morocco’s prohibition of direct flights to the occupied territories is said to have stalled the talks. A previous failed attempt occurred in April reported Morocco World News after the UAE and the Zionist regime scheduled a

joint flight of stranded Zionist and Emirati tourists but failed to disclose all the flight’s details to Moroccan authorities.

The New Arab revealed that the VIP plane involved in the operation belonged to a member of the Emirati royal family. Reporting that a video of the repatriation has circulated on social media showing the Zionists on-board “a lavish jet complete with pristine white leather sofas, a private meeting room, and even a gold enamel sink”.

The claim, originally made by Israel’s

Channel 12 contradicts earlier reports that the Zionists were repatriated by an American-Israeli couple. The allegations would be further evidence of normalization between the Zionist regime and Persian Gulf Arab states.

Last year it was reported that Emirati and Zionist officials travelled together on a direct flight from Abu Dhabi to the occupied territories in a private jet which flew through Saudi airspace without the customary stopover in Jordan.

# Syria’s Warring Parties Agree to Geneva Talks: UN

GENEVA (Dispatches) – Opposing sides in the Syrian war have agreed to reconvene in Geneva for negotiations on the constitution, United Nations Special Envoy Geir Pedersen says, adding that it could provide the arena for bridging “deep, deep mistrust”.

After nine years of conflict in Syria, Pedersen referred to “relative calm” in the last terrorist-held enclave of Idlib as an opportunity for building confidence. He urged the United States and Russia, who support opposing sides, to start talks and back the process.

“As soon as the pandemic situation allows, they have agreed to come to Geneva and they have agreed on an agenda for the next meeting,” Pedersen told reporters, referring to the government and the armed militants.

He did not give a date for the constitutional

committee, which struggled to make headway last year, and said that a virtual meeting would not be possible.

“We need this to start somewhere,” he said. “The Constitutional Committee could be that arena where confidence starts to build.”

## U.S.-Made Munitions Discovered

Meanwhile, local authorities in Syria found another major stock of arms and ammunition, including U.S.-made TOW anti-tank missiles, in southern Syria on Tuesday, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) has reported.

Photos of the haul show over a dozen heavy machineguns, a cache of rocket propelled grenade launchers, some of them still sealed in their protective wrapping, hundreds of boxes

of ammo of various calibers, and at least six U.S.-made TOWs, as well as Israeli-sourced M72 LAW bazookas. Other equipment includes automatic rifles, sniper rifles and hand grenades.

The weapons are said to have been seized during recent operations to comb through liberated areas in the provinces of Daraa and As-Suwayda along Syria’s southern border with Jordan.

A government source speaking to SANA said it’s common for authorities to find U.S.- and Israeli-made weapons amid stocks of weapons once used by the terrorists, with the military also discovering dozens of tunnels, underground weapons depots, and large quantities of logistical equipment and command and control headquarters once used to attack Syrian Army strongpoints and civilian areas.

## As Saudi Siege Blocks Unloading

# 15 Tankers Stranded Off Yemen Coast

SANAA (Press TV) – The Yemeni Petroleum Company (YPC) says more than a dozen tankers carrying over 410,000 tons of oil derivatives are stuck outside ports in Yemen as the ongoing blockade imposed by the Saudi-led coalition against the impoverished country hampers its efforts to import vital commodities.

The company announced in a statement on Tuesday that 15 vessels with 410,728 tons of petroleum products have been held up off the coast of Yemen for different lengths of time in flagrant violation of international human rights conventions and humanitarian rules.

The YPC further highlighted that the Saudi-led alliance waging a bloody military onslaught against Yemen blatantly ignores the provisions of the Stockholm agreement, which stressed in its entirety the need for facilitating the arrival of basic materials and humanitarian aid to the Yemen’s western port of Hudaydah in a way that meets the needs and aspirations of the Yemeni nation.

Delegates from the Houthi Ansarullah movement and representatives loyal to former Ye-

meni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi held a round of peace negotiations in Rimbo, north of the Swedish capital city of Stockholm, in December 2018.

The talks resulted in the announcement of a breakthrough agreement.

The document included three provisions: a ceasefire along the Hudaydah front and the re-deployment of armed forces out of the city and its port; an agreement on prisoner exchange; and a statement of understanding on the southern Yemeni city of Ta’izz.

The YPG emphasized that the continued confiscation of the oil tankers contradict earlier remarks by the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, before the Security Council on January 16 and October 22 last year, during which he claimed that ships carrying energy derivatives enter the port of Hudaydah without any obstacles.

The company noted that the Saudi-led coalition continues to besiege the Yemeni nation through maritime piracy, which aims to hinder the arrival of vessels carrying oil derivatives, natural gas,

food, medicine and other basic commodities to Hudaydah, despite the fact that the ships had earlier acquired necessary permits in Djibouti under the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM).

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched the devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in order to bring Hadi back to power and crush the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement.

The U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the war has claimed more than 100,000 lives over the past five years.

More than half of Yemen’s hospitals and clinics have been destroyed or closed during the war by the Saudi-led coalition, which is supported militarily by the UK, U.S. and other Western nations.

At least 80 percent of the 28 million-strong population is also reliant on aid to survive in what the United Nations has called the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.