

Turkey Deports 12 Finns Over Terror Links

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey deported 12 Finnish nationals over their links to terrorism, Turkish Interior Ministry has announced.

In a statement, the ministry said the militants were sent back as part of Ankara's efforts to "expel foreign terrorists."

Ankara says that although several European countries have resisted its efforts to send Daesh terrorists back to their countries, it will press forward.

Turkey has so far deported at least 7,500 Daesh members.

Thought for Today

Time wears out bodies, renews hopes, brings death nearer and takes away aspirations. Whoever gets anything from the world lives in anxiety for holding it and whoever loses anything passes his days grieving over the loss.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 11170 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, June 2, 2020, Khordad 13, 1399, Shawwal 10, 1441

Turkish-Backed Militants Burn Homes in Syria

DAMASCUS (Press TV) – Turkish-backed militants have burned local residents' homes in the northern countryside of Syria's northeastern province of Hasakah, as they continue to commit crimes against the local population, including extortion and looting of their property.

Local sources, requesting not to be named, told Syria's official news agency SANA on Monday that several homes in the villages of al-Qasimia and al-Rihaniyya, which lie northwest of Tal Tamr town, had been set ablaze by the extremists the previous day.

The sources added that the acts of arson took place only a few days after Turkish-backed militants set fire to a number of farmlands in al-Qasimia village.

Turkish-backed militants were deployed to northern Syria last October after Turkish military forces launched a long-threatened cross-border invasion in a declared attempt to push the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militants away from border areas.

Ankara views the U.S.-backed YPG as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984.



Turkish-backed militants ride a tank in the town of Saraqib in the eastern part of Syria's northwestern province of Idlib on February 27, 2020.

More than 200,000 people have been internally displaced by the Turkish-led offensive, according to the United Nations.

On October 22 last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, signed a memorandum of understanding that asserted the YPG militants had to withdraw from the Turkish-controlled "safe zone" in northeastern Syria within 150 hours, after which Ankara and Moscow would run joint patrols around the area.

Separately, Syrian government

officials have discovered a considerable amount of weapons, including U.S.-built TOW anti-tank missiles, while conducting clean-up operations in the southern sector of the war-ravaged Arab country.

SANA reported that heavy machine guns, assault rifles, night-vision goggles, binoculars, anti-tank missiles, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), anti-tank landmines, communication devices and hundreds of kilograms of hashish were seized in the area.

Syrian government officials also seized major stocks of Western-

made weapons and munitions, including American TOW anti-tank missiles, last month while they were conducting clean-up operations in the country's southwestern provinces of Dara'a, Suwayda and Quneitra.

SANA, citing an informed source speaking on condition of anonymity, reported on May 19 that the weapons were found as Syrian army troops were combing formerly militant-held areas.

Among the seized weapons were heavy machineguns, submachine guns, US-made BGM-71 TOW anti-tank guided missiles, Israeli-built M72 LAW portable anti-tank rockets, landmines, rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, automatic rifles, sniper rifles, hand grenades and ammunition of various calibers.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding the Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

The government forces have already managed to undo militant gains across the country and bring back most of Syrian soil under government control.

UAE: Zionist Regime Should Back Off Annexation Threat



File picture shows construction works in the illegal Israeli settlement of Givat Zeev near the Israeli-occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, on May 13, 2020.

DUBAI (Dispatches) – A senior United Arab Emirates official said on Monday that any unilateral move by the Zionist regime to annex parts of the occupied West Bank would be a serious setback for the Middle East process.

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said cabinet discussions would begin on July 1 on his plan to extend the occupying regime's so-called 'sovereignty' to territory Palestinians want for their own state.

"Continued Israeli talk of annexing Palestinian lands must stop," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said in a Twitter post.

"Any unilateral Israeli move will be a serious setback for the peace process, undermine Palestinian self determination & constitute a rejection of the international & Arab consensus towards stability & peace."

Gargash's remarks come while the UAE and other Persian Gulf Arab states largely voiced support for U.S. President Donald Trump's controversial plan on the Zionist-Palestinian conflict.

The Zionist regime's plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley have been envisaged in Trump's so-called "deal of the century" which the Palestinians have rejected.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he would start plans for annexing more areas in the occupied West Bank on July 1, in accordance with Trump's scheme, further infuriating Palestinians.

The occupying regime of Israel and the UAE do not have formal diplomatic relations, but have long had clandestine contacts, according to many reports.

In recent years, the UAE — along with other Persian Gulf Arab states — has made several overt moves for warmer ties with the Zionist regime, including letting in Zionist athletes and officials.

Last year, the occupying regime's former foreign minister Israel Katz visited Abu Dhabi. A year earlier, the regime's sports minister flew to the UAE capital where she went on a public tour of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

Pressure Grows on Saudi Regime to Release Jailed Prince

RIYADH Dispatches) – A \$2m U.S. lobbying effort and petitions from European legislators are piling pressure on Saudi Arabia to release a prince jailed for two years without charges amid an intensifying royal crackdown.

The detention of Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud and his father since January 2018 is seen as part of a clampdown under de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that has swept up potential political rivals, individuals accused of corruption and, at times, figures posing no visible challenge to his hold on power.

In March, Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, King Salman's brother, and the monarch's nephew Prince Mohammed bin Nayef were detained. Nayef was ousted as Crown Prince two years ago.

The clampdowns have also swept up family members of

Saad Aljabri, former aide to bin Nayef, who fled to Canada.

Prince Salman is seen by many as an unlikely target; the multilingual 37-year-old, who was educated at France's Sorbonne University, apparently espoused no political ambitions and earned the reputation of being a "walking blank check" for funding development projects in poor countries.

"This is not just an unlawful arrest," an associate of the prince told AFP. "This is daylight kidnapping. This is a forced disappearance."

After being detained for approximately one year in the high-security Al-Ha'ir prison near Riyadh and later in a private villa with his father Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the prince was moved to a secret detention site in March, multiple sources told AFP.

He was mysteriously returned

to the villa last week to be reunited with his father, three of those sources said.

It remains unclear why he was moved to the secret site. His telephone calls to his family are monitored by Saudi intelligence, the sources said.

But his return may be a tentative sign that international pressure for his release is working. Saudi authorities did not respond to a request for comment on the case.

A delegation from the European Parliament implored Saudi authorities to release detained royals, including Prince Salman, during a visit to Riyadh in February, according to a source and an internal report of the tour seen by AFP.

"The European Parliament already asked for information about the case in a letter addressed... to the Saudi Crown Prince Moham-

med bin Salman, which (remains) unanswered," Marc Tarabella, a vice chairman of the Parliament's delegation for relations with the Arab peninsula, wrote to the European Commission.

"I would like to ask you to raise this issue... with the highest relevant authorities in Saudi Arabia appealing for Prince Salman's release.

"I remain confident that the release would positively impact the relations of the European Parliament with Saudi Arabia," he wrote.

Separately, leading Washington lobbyist Robert Stryk's Sonoran Policy Group signed a \$2m contract in May to advocate for the prince's release "with the governments of the United States, United Kingdom, France, and the European Union", according to a U.S. justice department filing seen by AFP.

Palestine: Zionist Regime Paralyzing Industrial Zone in East al-Quds

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestine on Monday accused the Zionist regime of attempting to take over the only industrial zone for Palestinians in East al-Quds, after the occupying regime's authorities ordered the demolition and eviction of nearly 200 private establishments in the area.

The occupying regime's authorities' demolition orders in Wadi al-Joz neighborhood of East al-Quds will paralyze the only area where Palestinians own car repair workshops and commercial enterprises, said the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement. "At the same time, Israeli authorities upscale the construction of industrial zones for settlers, as part

of its colonial scheme to Judaize the city," said the statement.

Palestinians want the eastern part of al-Quds, which was occupied by the Zionist regime in 1967, as the capital of their future state.

'Poverty in West Bank May Double'

Meanwhile, just weeks before the Zionist regime aims to kick-start plans to annex parts of the territory, the World Bank warned Monday that poverty in the occupied West Bank may double as Palestinians are hit by the coronavirus.

The United Nations has meanwhile warned that such a move by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet would stifle financial and aid flows to the Palestinians.

The Zionist regime may start the annexation process as soon as July 1 with the support of U.S. President Donald Trump, who in January published a plan that was roundly rejected by the Palestinians.

The UN warned in a report Sunday that, without improved relations between the two sides and if annexation goes ahead, "the achievements of the Palestinian government over the last quarter century will fade.

UN Suspends 80% of Reproductive Health Facilities in Yemen

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) announced the suspension of reproductive health services in 80 percent of the facilities it supports in war-torn Yemen.

The UN agency said in a statement that due to lack of funding for life-saving reproductive health services, it had been forced to suspend the provision of reproductive health care in 140 of its 180 health facilities in Yemen, the Middle East Monitor reported.

The statement said, "The UNFPA is the sole provider of life-saving reproductive health medicines and supplies in Yemen, which has seen its health system all but collapse under five grinding years of conflict."

The UNFPA received only 41 percent of the \$100.5 million it had appealed for earlier this year for its humanitarian response in Yemen, it added.

On Friday, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Lise Grande, announced that

30 of the UN's 41 humanitarian programs would close due to lack of funding.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched the devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in order to reinstate Yemen's former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, 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.

The Riyadh regime has been frantically signing military deals with the U.S., Britain and many other European countries since it began the ongoing war against Yemen.

The extravagant spending has put a strain on Saudi Arabia's economy by driving up its military spending to beyond \$60 billion a year, much higher than what Russia and the UK are spending.