

6 Saudis Killed, 3 Injured in Shooting Near Yemen Border

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Six have been killed and three others injured in Saudi Arabia's southwestern province of Asir, a report says.

Saudi police in the province are investigating the incident but provided no information concerning the attackers, the report carried by the Middle East Monitor reported.

The incident is said to have been sparked by a dispute between two families, according to local reports. The victims are in their 30s and 40s. Weapons used in the shooting have been seized by police and arrests are being made.

Thought for Today

People in this world are like travelers whose journey is going on though they are asleep. (Life's journey is going on though men may not feel it).

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Hezbollah, Palestine Warn Zionist Annexation Plans Will Expand

U.S. Deploys Patriot Missile Near Gas Field in Syria's Dayr al-Zawr



Palestinians wave the national flag during a demonstration against illegal settlements in the village of Qusra, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on March 2, 2020.

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestine on Wednesday warned that the Zionist regime's plan to annex parts of the West Bank territory will extend to take over the entire territory, urging the international community to prevent it. Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation Organization Saeb Erekat told the official Palestinian radio station that

“the Israeli plan is fully backed by the United States.” “There is an American green light to Israel to go ahead and annex all of the West Bank and East al-Quds, which would be the biggest attempt to take over Palestinian lands and undermine the chances of establishing an independent Palestinian state,” he said.

The Palestinian leadership is holding contacts with world leaders, Erekat added. He urged the international community to intervene with serious steps to prevent the Zionist regime from going ahead with its plan to take over wide areas of the West Bank. At the same time, Erekat warned of a possible “escala-

tion” on the ground in light of the Palestinian decision to abolish ties with the Zionist regime and the United States last week over Netanyahu's move.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah warned of the Zionist regime's plans for a Palestinian state in Jordan.

In an interview with Lebanon's Noor Radio on Tuesday, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah called the Zionist regime a cancerous entity with no credibility in the region.

“Israel aims to occupy the entire Palestine and according to this scheme, Jordan is an alternative home for the Palestinian people,” he was cited as saying by the website of Al Manar TV.

He further asserted that the Zionist regime lacks the courage to wage another war on Lebanon, given the Muslim country's defensive might.

“We warn Israel against committing a folly by launching the great war, all factions of axis of resistance could engage in such a war,” Nasrallah said.

The Hezbollah leader vowed a firm response to any attacks by the regime's military, noting that the fake and racist entity would not manage to survive.



Members of the U.S.-backed so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) walk in the village of Baghouz in Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr near the Iraqi border on March 24, 2019.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The U.S.-led coalition deployed Patriot missile system near the Koniko gas field in Syria's Dayr al-Zawr, opposition sources reported on Wednesday.

The Arabic-language al-Sham channel, close to the dissidents, reported that the U.S.-led coalition has extended its military presence and bases near Koniko and has set barbed wire around the gas field.

Meantime, al-Jisr newspaper, affiliated to the opposition, quoted local sources as saying that three Patriot missile systems have been deployed near Koniko, adding that Washington intends to station the system in several other areas of Dayr al-Zawr too.

The U.S. second biggest military base in Dayr al-Zawr is located near Koniko.

Reports said earlier this month that the U.S. was pulling two Patriot missile batteries and some fighter aircraft out of Saudi Arabia to transfer them to another regional state.

Early in May, a prominent Iraqi security expert warned of the U.S. plot to transfer its Patriot missile systems from Saudi Arabia to its bases in the Iraqi Kurdistan region and Kirkuk.

Amir Abdol Mona'am told the Arabic-language al-Ma'aloumeh news website that the U.S. might transfer the Patriot system from Saudi Arabia to Iraq to support the Daesh terrorists against the Iraqi security and Hashd al-Sha'abi popular forces.

He added that the U.S. is attempting to strengthen its presence in Iraq.

“The U.S. has started implementation of a new plan with focus on the military bases which are not in range of the resistance forces and it is expected that the Patriot system will be transferred from Saudi Arabia to Kirkuk or the Iraqi Kurdistan region or be used on mobile platforms in regions where terrorists are stationed,” Abdol Mona'am said.

Trump Wants U.S. Troops Out of Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. President Donald Trump says that he has no target for when U.S. troops in Afghanistan should return home and that troop withdrawal should occur ‘as soon as is reasonable.’

The U.S. president noted that while he desires a full military withdrawal from Afghanistan, he has not yet set a target date.

“We're not acting as soldiers, we're acting as police, and we're not sent over there to be policemen. But we're there 19 years, and I think that's enough. We want to bring our soldiers back home ... we can always go back if we have to. If we have to go back, we'll go back raging, and they [the soldiers] will go back as warriors, fighters, but right now we're policing, and we're not meant to be police force,” Trump told a White House news

conference. When asked if the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday on November 26 was a target date, Trump responded: “No, I have no target. [U.S. troops will return] as soon as is reasonable. Over a period of time, but as soon as reasonable. We're down to 7,000-some-odd soldiers right now, and in Iraq, we're down to 4,000 soldiers. So we're making a lot of progress.”

Senior U.S. military officials are expected to discuss options for withdrawing American troops from Afghanistan with Trump over the next few days. Complete withdrawal of troops could occur as early as before the November presidential election, officials familiar with the matter told the New York Times this week.

The U.S. reached a deal with the Taliban militant group on



Members of a U.S. Army carry team move the flag-draped transfer case holding the remains an American service member killed in Afghanistan at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on June 25, 2019.

February 28, under which the Taliban agreed to halt attacks in return for Washington's phased withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan and a prisoner exchange with the government in Kabul.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 as part of the so-called war on terror. While the invasion ended the Taliban's rule in the country, it has failed to eliminate the militant group.

Saudi Scholar: Khashoggi Family May Have Pardoned Killers Under Pressure

RIYADH (Press TV) – A Saudi scholar says the family of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi may have forgiven his killers under “pressure and intimidation” from the Riyadh regime.

Abdullah Alaoudh, a Saudi academic at Georgetown University in Washington DC, and himself the son of a Saudi dissident, wrote in an article on The Washington Post that Khashoggi's family, who said they pardoned the journalist's killers, were “no different than any Saudi family that faces tremendous pressure and intimidation from the Saudi government.”

Pointing to several cases similar to what happened to Khashoggi, the Saudi scholar said, “We are witnessing an unprecedented number of cases in which families are used as hostages to intimidate activists and writers abroad.”

Alaoudh made the comment after Salah Khashoggi, the son of the slain Saudi dissident journalist, announced in a tweet on Friday that he had pardoned the

killers of his father.

Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, however rejected his family's decision to forgive their father's murderers and said no one had the right to pardon the killers.

Khashoggi, she said, has become “an international symbol bigger than any of us, admired and loved.”

Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post, who had become a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed and his body was dismembered by a Saudi hit squad after being lured into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October 2018.

Some Western governments, as well as the CIA, have concluded that bin Salman ordered the killing.

While 31 suspects were linked to the killing, only 11 were put on trial in Riyadh behind closed doors. Based on the court ruling, five people were sentenced to death, three to jail, and the remaining three were exonerated.

Oman, Saudi Arabia to Further Ease Pandemic Restrictions

MUSCAT (Dispatches) – Oman will on Friday end a lockdown of its Muscat governorate - which includes the capital - that has been in place since April 10 as the sultanate eases its coronavirus containment measures, the state news agency reported on Wednesday.

It said a state committee had also ordered

government entities to ensure at least 50% of employees are working from their offices from May 31.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian airlines are preparing to resume some domestic flights from Sunday as the Kingdom eases coronavirus containment measures, the state news agency said on

Wednesday.

Sixty flights will resume each day in the first phase. Bans on domestic travel, holding prayers in mosques, and workplace attendance in both the government and private sector will be lifted, starting on May 31, the news agency reported early on Tuesday.