

‘Just Tip of Iceberg’

16,000 African Migrants Detained in ‘Hellish’ Saudi Detention Center

RIYADH (MEMO) – Further details have emerged of the horrific treatment meted out to African migrants by Saudi regime officials in the second report in a month by the Telegraph.

The report exposes the “slave” like treatment of thousands of Ethiopians stranded in the kingdom.

About 16,000 migrants are being held in just one Saudi centre, Ethiopia’s Consul General in Jeddah Abdo Yassin said adding that it was “just the tip of the iceberg”.

“Jeddah has over 53 prisons. Ethiopians are held in every one of them,” Yassin is reported saying in the Telegraph. “If you take the one at Al Shumaisi...located around 60km from Jeddah, there are about 16,000 Ethiopians kept in the prison and the holding cells.” Al Shumasi detention center is near the holy city of Makkah.

Yassin’s comments shed further light on the gruesome treatment of African refugees in Saudi Arabia, which was exposed earlier this month. Hundreds, if not thousands of African migrants are locked up in squalid conditions in Saudi Arabian coronavirus detention centers, reminiscent of Libya’s slave camps, according to an investigation by the Sunday Telegraph.



Tens of thousands of migrants were also slated for deportation from Saudi Arabia but were rounded up and left in squalid conditions in detention facilities

There has been mounting pressure ever since for the Ethiopian government in Addis Ababa to repatriate the migrants stuck in the centers. Last week, nearly 150 women and children are said to have been repatriated to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia.

However, details uncovered by the Telegraph have shown that migrants had to purchase their own

one-way tickets home from Ethiopian Airlines: something that the vast majority of impoverished migrants cannot do.

To make matters worse, the Ethiopian embassy in Riyadh announced on Monday that Saudi immigration authorities had voided the agreement, leaving Ethiopian migrants with no remaining avenues to escape the kingdom.

“It is shocking to hear that up to 16,000 Ethiopian migrants might be languishing in detention in the Al Shumaisi facility. Human Rights Watch and the Telegraph documented horrific conditions in two other centers in Jazan Saudi Arabia where thousands more Ethiopian migrants may also reside,” said Nadia Hardman, a researcher at the NGO Human Rights Watch.

Iraq Arrests 10 Daesh Terrorists in Nineveh

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The intelligence service of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior announced on Wednesday that it had arrested ten Daesh terrorists in Nineveh province.

“Through continuous monitoring of Daesh gangs in Nineveh Governorate, the intelligence represented by Nineveh intelligence arrested 10 terrorists in separate areas of the governorate,” according to a statement by the ministry, Shafaq News reported.

It also said “the terrorists worked in the so-called Diwan

al-Jund, the state of Dijlah, the state of Nineveh, and Askar in the Dabiq army, using different names.”

“Through preliminary investigations, they admitted their affiliation with Daesh and their participation in several terrorist operations against the security forces and citizens,” it added, noting that “they were referred to the judiciary to be punished fairly”.

On Monday, the Iraqi military eliminated a senior ringleader of the Daesh, who was responsible for bankrolling terrorist group’s

camps, in the western Anbar province, Iraq’s Security Media Cell, an official outlet providing information on the country’s security, said.

“The Iraqi forces’ counter-terrorism service made a landing in the town of Rutba in the Anbar province. [As a result of the operation,] a terrorist, who has been the major provider of finance for Daesh camps in Rutba, was killed”, the statement said.

The military also detained another high-ranking Daesh terrorist during the operation, it

added.

The Iraqi armed forces along with popular movements have been carrying out counter-terrorism operations against Daesh in Iraq since August 2014.

In 2017, the Iraqi authorities announced the country was completely liberated from the militants after over three years of fighting. However, pockets of terrorist remnants continue to engage in sabotage and terrorist attacks in the country. They are pushed back by both the government forces and popular movements.

Sirens...

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the Zionist entity are not worth the ink with which they were written – and our people, with their insistence on the struggle until the full recovery of their rights, will deal with these agreements as if they were non-existent,” according to Palestinian media. “A question to the United States of America, Israel, Bahrain and the UAE: Will the signing of the normalization agreement at the White House now prevent these missiles from leaving Gaza tonight to Israel?” asked senior Fatah official Monir al-Jaghoub in response to the deals and rocket fire. “Peace begins in Palestine and war begins in Palestine.”

UK...

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Star: “This is a fairly regular and tedious demonstration. UAV employs local people and supplies equipment to the British armed forces.

“Perhaps if the Palestinians were able to establish a western democracy... sever their ties with terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah - which have as their main policy the destruction of Israel - a workable peace treaty between the Palestinians and Israel can be achieved.”

Responding to Fabricant’s comments, Huda Ammori, one of the activists occupying the UAV Engines factory, said: “The UK government has been complicit in the colonization of Palestine for over 100 years. Now they continue to profit from, sustain and facilitate Israel’s apartheid regime.

“While our government continues to turn a blind eye to Elbit Systems continuing to arm Israel’s war crimes against the Palestinian people, we too will continue to disrupt and take direct action for the sake of human rights, justice and freedom.”

During a visit to the UK last month, the occupying regime of Israel’s minister of strategic affairs, Orit Farkash-Hacohen, complained about protests against Elbit Systems, which has 10 offices and factories in Britain, in a meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab.

“The offices of an Israeli security company were vandalized for the fourth time in the last month. We want Israeli companies to continue doing business in London,” the minister told Raab at the meeting.

U.S. ...

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detain him for around three years from that date.

Then he was charged with “theft of trade secrets, visa fraud, and eleven counts of wire fraud.”

His indictment claimed that a four-month visit that he had made to Case Western Reserve University in Ohio four years earlier had been “part of a scheme to defraud an American valve manufacturer of its intellectual property in order to benefit the Iranian government.”

The scientist rejected the charges as “nonsense” because the processes that he had studied at the university were well known to materials scientists and hardly trade secrets.

The FBI warned him during his detention, “We haven’t lost a case,” but was told by him, “This will be your first.”

Asgari returned home this June thanks to diplomatic efforts by Tehran, despite Washington’s attempts at prolonging his detention and exchange him with an Iran-held prisoner.

Since Trump’s 2016 inauguration, the U.S. has either arrested or deported many Iranian scientists and stu-

dents under various excuses, prompting the Islamic Republic to warn the academics that Washington could lure them to the United States before trying to exploit their presence there.

Islamic...

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(Peace be upon Him), with many observers viewing it an intentional move.

Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Qaemqami condemned the decision by Charlie Hebdo to republish the sacrilegious cartoons in a Tuesday address to an international gathering of monotheistic religions, attended by representatives from Nigeria, Yemen, Argentina and Pakistan.

“That the French publication says ‘it has done the right thing and will do that again’ is indicative of an inherent malice,” Qaemqami said.

“We hope that humanity will have a change of heart and that the current Satanic rule, which is a throwback to the ignorance of the past will end soon,” he added.

French President Emmanuel Macron has refused to condemn the measure, citing freedom of expression, claiming it was not right for a political leader to get involved in editorial matters.

In Iran, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei condemned the French magazine, saying such hostile moves are rooted in the “deeply anti-Islamic policies” of Zionists and arrogant governments.

Ayatollah Khamenei also denounced as “unacceptable” French politicians’ refusal to condemn the blasphemous caricatures under the guise of respecting free speech.

Iran...

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Javad Zarif blasted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as a “habitual liar”, saying he was seeking to deceive the U.S. president and “sucker him into mother of all quagmires by leaking a new false alarm.”

“The habitual liar bamboozled Donald Trump into assassinating ISIS’ enemy #1 by raising a false alarm. Now he’s trying to sucker him into mother of all quagmires by leaking a new false alarm,” he tweeted.

“This is not the first time that the President of the United States has threatened to use force against Iran. Following the horrific assassination of Major General Qasem Soleimani, the Commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3 January 2020 (S/2020/13), and in the course of 3 to 5 January 2020, he threatened on five different occasions to use force against Iran (S/2020/16),” Takht-Ravanchi said in his letter.

On January 4, Trump threatened to target 52 sites, some “at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture” if Tehran took revenge for the terrorist U.S. assassination.

“We seriously warn about any further military adventurism against Iran by the United States that must bear the full responsibility for all consequences,” Takht-Ravanchi wrote.

“The irresponsible policies and unlawful practices of the United States pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the United Nations Security Council to demand that the United States put an end to its threats and unfettered policies and hold that country accountable for its wrongful acts,” the diplomat added.

He also stressed that Iran reserves the right to defend itself against any US act of aggression.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate to exercise its inherent right to self-defense to protect its people, defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and secure its national interests against any aggression,” he wrote.

Turkey Hunting More Suspects Over Links to Failed Coup

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkey on Wednesday continued to hunt the suspected military personnel who have allegedly been linked to a network believed to be behind a coup attempt in 2016 with a series of operations.

Police units launched operations in 34 provinces to catch at least 132 suspects upon the order of the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office in Istanbul, according to the NTV broadcaster.

The suspects included 82 soldiers on active duty and 50 expelled or retired military personnel, it said, noting that so far 106 of them have been detained.

On Tuesday, prosecutors in the western province of Izmir ordered the arrest of 66 suspects, including 48 serving military personnel, in an investigation of the armed forces.

The operation marks a fresh wave in a four-year-old crackdown targeting the network of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen. He denies involvement in the July 2016 putsch, in which some 250 people were killed.

Since the coup attempt, about 80,000 people have been held pending trial and some 150,000 civil servants, military personnel and others sacked or suspended. More than 20,000 people had been expelled from the Turkish military alone.

Ankara prosecutors on Friday ordered the detention of dozens of lawyers suspected of operating in support of Gulen.

Turkish and international lawyers’ groups said the lawyers were simply doing their job representing clients accused of Gulen links.

Iraq, Saudi Arabia Expect New Coronavirus Wave

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The total number of COVID-19 infections in Iraq on Wednesday reached 303,059, as health ministry’s officials warned that the upcoming two months will be crucial to the spread of the pandemic.

Abdul Ghani al-Saadi, head of the ministry’s al-Risafa Health Department in eastern Baghdad, told the official al-Sabah newspaper that “the epidemiological situation is still unstable in Iraq and the danger lies within the next two months.”

Al-Saadi highlighted the importance of “preparing for a new wave of the pandemic

due to climate fluctuations that are likely to lead to an increase in infections.”

The ministry’s spokesman Sayf al-Badr said in a press release that most the COVID-19 death cases were those who were too late to be hospitalized.

“All the protocols for treating coronavirus are available in Iraq and the ministry is prepared for all possibilities and has increased the number of hospital beds to about 8,000,” al-Badr said.

He said that the ministry is expecting another wave of infections in the upcoming winter.

Saudi Arabia is in a similar situation as the country’s health ministry registered 31 new deaths and 621 fresh infections on Wednesday, pushing the total number of confirmed cases to 327,551, including 4,369 deaths and 306,004 recoveries.

The pandemic has killed more than 936,000 people worldwide, with over 29.61 million confirmed cases, according to figures compiled by the U.S.’ Johns Hopkins University.

The number of recoveries from the pandemic across the globe surpassed 20.11 million.