

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Dozens of Iraqi protesters again clashed with security forces in Baghdad Monday, a day after a rally marked the first anniversary of the start of nationwide mass demonstrations over their living conditions. Police fired stun grenades and tear gas at protesters who were burning tires and hurling rocks on the Al-Jumhuriyah bridge across the Tigris River, an AFP photographer reported. Thousands of Iraqis took to the streets nationwide on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of the 2019 demonstrations.

The world is like a serpent, so soft to touch, but so full of lethal poison. Unwise people are allured by it and drawn towards it, and wise men avoid it and keep away from its poisonous effects.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 11285 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, Aban 6, 1399, Rabi al-Awwal 10, 1442

Air Strikes Kill Dozens Turkey-Backed Militants in Syria's Idlib: Observatory



Turkish military vehicles, part of a convoy, drive through the town of Ariha in the militant-held northwestern Idlib province on October 20, 2020.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Russian air strikes reportedly killed at least 100 militants from a Turkey-backed militant group in northwestern Syria on Monday, as Turkish officials fear the government, backed by Russia, is preparing to overrun Idlib.

A high-ranking commander in Failaq al-Sham told Middle East Eye that more than 100 militants were killed and 150 were wounded after Russia targeted the faction's training camp in Jabal Duwayli area in Idlib province.

But the so-called Syrian Ob-

servatory for Human Rights said that the Russian attack had killed 78 militants.

The so-called National Liberation Front (NLF), a coalition of Turkey-backed militants, confirmed to AFP that Russian strikes had targeted one of its facilities but did not give an exact death toll.

Saif Raad, the director of the media office for Failaq al-Sham and the NLF, refused to verify the number of militants killed because the number was unclear but said the camp targeted was in the "border area with Turkey"

and affiliated to so-called Free Syrian Army factions.

"Reconnaissance planes have not left the sky and are monitoring the whole region," he said.

Last week, Turkey withdrew from one of its largest outposts in northwestern Syria which had been encircled for the past year by Syrian government forces.

The outpost in Morek had been Turkey's largest in Hama province, most of which is now under Syrian government control.

After a string of military victories backed by Russia, the Syrian government has regained

control of around 70 percent of the country, the Observatory says.

On Sunday, UN envoy to Syria Geir Pedersen visited Damascus and met Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem.

Pedersen afterwards said the meeting "touched upon all issues related to Security Council resolution 2254" for a political solution to the conflict.

"It's my hope that meetings we have had today and meetings we will continue to have could be the beginning of something new," he said.

The UN envoy said he would then hold talks with members of the political opposition.

"Hopefully we can see if it's possible to find more common ground on how to move this process forward," he added.

The Syrian foreign minister said says only Syrian people have the exclusive right to decide the future of their country.

Touching on the work of the Committee of Discussing the Constitution for Syria, both sides underlined the importance of the success of its work which requires the adherence to the agreed rules of procedures, the report added.

Muallem stressed that all the process of formation and work of the committee in all of its stages is led and owned solely by the Syrian nation and Syrians, therefore, have the exclusive right in deciding the future of their country.

U.S. Bombs Afghan Outpost in Violation of Pullout Deal

KABUL (Dispatches) – The United States launched an air strike on an outpost in central Afghanistan the purportedly belong to the Taliban, killing five militants, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan said Sunday evening.

The U.S. attack comes despite the ongoing talks with the Taliban representatives in Doha, Qatar, aimed at restoring peace and security to the country.

The U.S. military spokesman in Kabul, said the air strike in Wardak province targeted Taliban militants, killing five.

Many believe that the action

is in violation of the terms of the United States withdrawal agreement struck with the Taliban in February.

"We reject the allegations of violating the agreement and of killing innocent Afghans," the U.S. spokesman said, without elaborating.

When asked for comment, a Taliban spokesman said that there had been no fighting when the strike took place, and it broke the terms of agreement.

"This attack is a violation of the agreement and we condemn it," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Earlier this month, the Taliban accused the United States of violating the agreement following air strikes in southern Helmand province, where government forces were repelling hundreds of militants seeking to seize control of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah.

Under the U.S.-Taliban deal, the militants agreed to stop their attacks on foreign forces in return for the U.S. military's withdrawal from Afghanistan and prisoner swap with the government.

The Kabul government neither took part in the U.S.-Taliban negotiations, nor in the

deal, but it has been acting in accordance with its terms, including freeing the Taliban prisoners.

Washington invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban-run government in 2001 under the pretext of fighting terrorism following the September 11 attacks in New York.

Since the U.S. and its allies invaded the country as part of Washington's so-called war on terror, Afghanistan has been gripped by violence and insecurity, with many parts of the country plagued by militancy despite the presence of foreign troops.

party.

In 2015, Al-Douri was reported killed in a military operation in Iraq by Al-Arabiya.

Al-Douri remained at large following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, which toppled Saddam in 2003. A notorious figure behind major terrorist attacks in Iraq after the fall of Saddam, he later joined forces with the Daesh terrorists when the Takfiris started their campaign of terror in Iraq in early June 2014.

evaded capture.

The former aide was the King of Clubs in the famous most-wanted pack of cards issued to U.S. troops at the start of the invasion in 2003.

His death was announced in a voice recording posted by the now-defunct Ba'ath party on Facebook.

This is at least the second time the Saddam-era aide has been reported dead, but the first where the news was confirmed by the Ba'ath

Oman Next to Normalize Ties With Zionist Regime: Report



Palestinian demonstrators lift placards protesting Sudan's normalization agreement with the Zionist regime, in Rafah town in the southern Gaza Strip on October 24, 2020.

MUSCAT (Dispatches) – Zionist regime officials say Oman is likely the next Arab country to normalize ties with the occupying regime after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Sudan reached normalization deals with the regime.

Israel's Channel 12 cited sources in the regime as saying that Oman's normalization deal with the Zionists was even potentially possible before the U.S. presidential election on November 3.

However, they stressed that the agreement could take more time, as Muscat would wait for possible political change after U.S. elections.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2018 visited Oman, where he met Sultan Qaboos. The sultan died in January and was succeeded by his cousin Haitham bin Tariq Al Said.

The UAE and Bahrain signed the controversial agreements to normalize ties with the Zionist regime at the White House on September 15, amid outrage across Palestine and the Muslim world.

Oman hailed the accords between the occupying regime and the UAE and Bahrain.

Palestinians say the treacherous deals are a stab in their back. Head of Hamas' Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh condemned the normalization deals.

In the statement, Haniyeh said: "As some Arab regimes have rushed to announce normalization agreements with the Israeli occupation, the last of them being the U.S.-Israeli-Sudanese tripartite deal."

"We condemn this political deviation, which reflects the deepening gap between some rulers and the consciousness of their nations and glorious history."

"We are confident that the Sudanese-Israeli agreement does not reflect the historical positions of the Sudanese people towards the Pales-

tinian cause."

Angry Sudanese protesters took to the streets to condemn the current junta's decision to follow the UAE and Bahrain in forging diplomatic relations with the occupying regime.

The Sudanese protesters rallied in the capital Khartoum Friday evening, calling on Sudan's Sovereign Council chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan to reject the normalization deal.

The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement also roundly condemned Sudan's interim government for agreement to normalize full diplomatic ties, saying authorities in the Northeast African state are stuck in the quagmire of treason and normalization with the Tel Aviv regime.

Hezbollah, in a statement released on Sunday, censured "the political and moral fall of the ruling authority in Sudan into the quagmire of betrayal and normalization with the Israeli enemy, which was preceded by a number of Arab states."

"We consider such a treacherous and cheap step to be in the best interests of the Zionist regime and the United States. It will eventually result in the rapid collapse of the incumbent authority [in Sudan] before the eyes of the honorable Sudanese nation, who have a long history of struggle and will quash such a decision," the Lebanese resistance movement pointed out.

In Bahrain also, hundreds of people protested against the ruling Al Khalifah regime's signing of the normalization deal with the Zionist regime.

The protestors took to the streets in the capital Manama on Friday, hoisting banners and placards in condemnation of the agreement, the Arabic-language LuaLua television network reported.

Banners were displayed reading "Normalization is mortifying" and "No to humiliation!". The demonstrators walked over the Zionist regime's flag as well.

Turkey Arrests Over Two Dozen Daesh Suspects

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish police have arrested 28 people across the country over suspected links to Daesh terrorist group, security sources have said.

Police arrested 18 suspects, all foreign nationals, in simultaneous anti-terror operations in the capital Ankara, said the source on Monday, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media.

The police continue the search for two other suspects, it added.

Meanwhile, in Turkey's central Yozgat province, four

suspects of Iraqi origin were caught, while six others, including so-called senior members of the terrorist organization, were nabbed in the eastern Siirt province.

In 2013, Turkey declared Daesh a terrorist group. The country has since been attacked by Daesh terrorists, with at least 10 suicide bombings, seven bomb attacks, and four armed attacks that killed 315 people and injured hundreds more.

Turkey launched anti-terror operations to prevent further attacks.

Saddam Henchman Izzat Ibrahim Al-Douri Dies

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Izzat Ibrahim Al-Douri, a former close aide to longtime Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, has died in Iraq at 78.

Al-Douri was one of the Ba'athist regime's most prominent members, acting as the late Iraqi dictator's deputy from 1979 until his fall in 2003.

He was still wanted by the U.S. at the time of his death and is believed to be one of the highest-profile Saddam-era officials to have