

Syrian Strikes Kill Top ISIL Commander in Hama

DAMASCUS (FNA) – Syrian warplanes pounded ISIL positions in the city of Hama, killing large groups of terrorists, including a senior commander. The ISIL commander, identified as *Abi Ammar al-Jazrawi*, was killed in an air strike near the town of Hamadi Omar, some 50 km (30 miles) southwest of the city of Hama, World Bulletin reported. Syrian state media said the airstrikes had also destroyed a convoy of military vehicles.

Thought for Today

The source of success of a claimant is the mediator.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Report: Zionist Torture of Palestine Inmates Sharply Rises

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A new report has revealed a sharp increase in the torture of Palestinian inmates at the hands of the interrogators of the notorious Zionist spying service Shin Bet in the second half of 2014.

Citing defense lawyers representing Palestinian prisoners, Israeli daily Haaretz reported Friday that instances of torture by Shin Bet agents climbed from eight cases in the first half of 2014 to a whopping 51 cases in the second half of the year.

The information, which was collected from Israeli military courts and a group called the Public Com-

mittee Against Torture in Israel, points to the common use of such torture tactics such as sleep deprivation, beatings, shaking and tying detainees in pressure positions for extended periods, the report said.

According to the daily, in some cases torture by Shin Bet interrogators has forced suspects to give false confessions under duress and admit to crimes they never committed.

In one of the many cases, a Palestinian, who was detained on suspicion of abducting and killing three Zionist settlers in June 2014, was tortured into falsely admitting to involvement in the incident.

Shin Bet has an established history of illegally torturing thousands of Palestinians, a practice that is authorized by the Zionist regime’s law, allowing the exertion of physical pressure on suspects in the case of “urgent need,” a circumstance defined by the Israeli attorney general but kept secret from the public.

The report further makes clear that torturing suspected Palestinians is not at all illegal in Israel, but Shin Bet is required to report to the court the kinds of torture used on suspects so that the judges will know what weight to give “evidence” collected under such measures.

The report also cites military court

authorities with access to Shin Bet torture documents to describe some of the “less brutal” torture methods used against Palestinian detainees.

They include blindfolding a suspect for extended periods to induce a loss of orientation with several agents standing around him, shouting into his ears for several hours.

Tel Aviv is already under fire over its cruel treatment of Palestinian prisoners. Thousands of Palestinians are languishing in Israeli jails without trial for extended periods of time.

Reports say around 7,000 Palestinians are held in Israeli jails, many of them without charge or trial.

150 ISIL Terrorists Slain In Iraqi Army Strikes



This file photo shows an F-16 fighter jet operated by the Iraqi air force.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – At least 150 Takfiri ISIL terrorists have been killed when Iraqi fighter jets carried out two separate operations in Iraq’s violence-plagued western province of al-Anbar as well as the northern province of Salahuddin.

According to a statement released by the Iraqi Defense Ministry late on Friday, the terrorists were killed when Iraqi air force military aircraft carried out precision strikes against ISIL positions in Salahuddin Province as well as east of the city of al-Karma, located 48 kilometers (30 miles) west of the capital, Baghdad.

The statement further noted that Iraqi jets also destroyed 25 vehicles.

Separately, 13 ISIL Takfiris were killed and two Humvee military vehicles used by the terrorists destroyed when units of Iraqi government forces lobbed missiles at ISIL bases east of Karma on Friday.

The developments come as Iraqi soldiers, backed by volunteer fighters, have retaken an airport in the town of al-Dour, located more than 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of Baghdad.

The liberation of the airport took place as the army as well as Shia and Sunni volunteers pushed ahead with their major offensive against the terrorists in Salahuddin Province, where they have already managed to liberate 97 regions and districts from ISIL Takfiri terrorists over the past few days.

Iraqi army soldiers backed by Shia fighters are tightening the noose around the ISIL-held city of Tikrit, located on the Tigris River in the east. According to provincial officials, Iraqi forces are expected to reach the edges of the city on Saturday.

ISIL started its campaign of terror in Iraq in early June 2014. The heavily armed terrorists took control of Mosul before sweeping through parts of the country’s Sunni Arab heartland.

Iraqi soldiers, police units, Kurdish forces, Shia volunteers and Sunni tribesmen are engaged in battles with the terrorists to drive them back from some areas they have under control.

Aide: Hadi Considers Aden as Yemen Capital

SANAA (AFP) – Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi regards the southern port city of Aden as the Arab country’s capital, an aide says.

The aide, quoting Hadi, said on Saturday that Aden became the capital of the Arab country when the Houthi fighters took control of Sana’a last September.

The Yemeni president’s claim is totally symbolic as moving the capital requires a change in the Arab country’s constitution.

Some Persian Gulf Arab states have already relocated their embassies from Sana’a to Aden.

Hadi, along with the cabinet of Prime Minister Khaled Bahah, stepped down in late January, but the Yemeni parliament did not approve the president’s resignation.

Last month, the Houthi Ansarullah movement dissolved the parliament



Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi during a press conference in the southern Yemeni city of Aden

and announced a constitutional declaration on the Transitional National Council.

The constitutional declaration

said that the council will be set up to elect the presidential council in a bid to end the country’s persisting political deadlock.

Hadi left his home in the capital Sana’a on February 21 after weeks under effective house arrest and went to Aden, Yemen’s second largest city, where he officially withdrew his resignation and highlighted his intention to resume duties.

He also called on the Ansarullah revolutionaries to relinquish power and leave Sana’a. Houthis, however, said Hadi had lost his legitimacy as head of state and was being sought as a fugitive from justice.

The Houthi movement played a key role in the 2011 popular uprising that forced dictator, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to quit after 33 years in power.

The Ansarullah revolutionaries say the Yemeni government has been incapable of properly running the affairs of the country and providing security.

Thousands Set to Hold Rally Against Netanyahu in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Press TV) – Tens of thousands of people are expected to take part in a rally against Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling for a change in the Zionist regime’s policies.

The march dubbed, “Israel Wants Change,” is scheduled to start at Tel Aviv’s Rabin Square at 7:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported.

The protesters will call on Israel to refocus on a number of issues such as education, health, wages, housing, the elderly and the cost of living.

The rally comes as early elections for the twentieth Knesset (parliament) will be held on 17 March. Netanyahu, the right-wing Likud party’s candidate, is seeking a fourth term in office.

Meir Dagan, the former head of Israel’s Mossad spy agency, and Amiram Levin, the ex-deputy Mossad chief, are reportedly among those who will address Saturday’s rally.

In February, Dagan denounced Netanyahu’s policies as “destructive” to Tel Aviv’s future and security.

He also accused the Israeli premier of bringing “intolerable” risks upon Israel by fraying ties with Washington.

The criticism came days before Netanyahu’s speech at the US Congress on March 3, in which he called on Washington not to negotiate what he called a “very bad deal” with Tehran over its nuclear program.

Michal Kesten-Keidar, the widow of Lieutenant-Colonel Dolev Keidar, who was killed in Israel’s 50-day bloody war on the besieged Gaza Strip will also speak during the planned march.

The onslaught on Gaza that ended in August 2014 with an Egyptian-brokered truce killed over 2,140 Palestinians, including 577 children. Over 11,100 others, including 3,374 children, 2,088 women and 410 elderly people, were also injured.

Gang-Raped Saudi Woman Given 200 Lashes

RIYADH (Press TV) – A Saudi woman who had fallen victim to a violent gang-rape has been sentenced to 200 lashes and six months in jail after being found guilty of speaking to the media about the crime and indecency.

The Shia woman, 19 years old back in 2006, was in the car of a student friend when two men got into the vehicle and drove them to a secluded area, where she was raped by seven men, the Middle East Monitor reported on Friday.

She was initially sentenced to 90 lashes for being in the car of a strange man, because the Saudi law dictates that a male family member must accompany a woman at all times in public.

The rapists were, surprisingly, sentenced to prison terms up to five years, which were regarded light considering the fact that they could have faced the death penalty.

The woman’s lawyer, Abdul Rahman al-Lahem, appealed to the Saudi General Court after the

sentences were handed down. The court, however, more than doubled her sentence because the victim had spoken to the media.

“For whoever has an objection on verdicts issued, the system allows to appeal without resorting to the media,” Saudi officials said in a statement published on the official Saudi Press Agency.

The lawyer was also banned from the case, his license was confiscated, and was summoned to a disciplinary hearing scheduled for later

this month.

The verdict has been criticized by a number of politicians and human rights organizations around the globe.

Moreover, former US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said, “I think when you look at the crime and the fact that now the victim is punished, I think that causes a fair degree of surprise and astonishment. It is within the power of the Saudi government to take a look at the verdict and change it.”

May Allah Deliver The 20,000 Egyptians from Prison

Source: Middle East Monitor

Amnesty International condemned repeated cases of death as a result of torture in Egyptian detention centers which resulted in the killing of three detainees in the past week in El-Matareya police station, Cairo.

The organization said in a statement that at least nine detainees have died in El-Matareya police station over the past 11 months, no investigations were held into the deaths and those responsible were not held accountable.

Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International, Hassiba Hadjsahraoui said the Egyptian authorities cannot continue covering up rampant human rights abuses in police stations, especially since several incidents of torture and even death are documented in forensic reports.

Last week, two officers from the National Security Forces were suspended for four days pending an investigation after they were accused of torturing a lawyer to death at El-Matareya police station.

Egyptian and international human rights organizations said that since the coup in 2013, Egyptian authorities have arrested tens of thousands of opponents; nearly 20,000 are still in prison.

Data compiled by Egyptian human rights organizations revealed that since the beginning of last year, 121 people died as a result of torture and harsh conditions in Egyptian jails.

“May Allah bless the souls of the torture victims and save the 20,000 who are in prison”, remarked my friend Jamsheed, nicknamed Jimmy (The simpleminded).