

Turkish Military Evacuate Troops From Tomb in Syria

ANKARA (Dispatches) – The Turkish military has launched an operation to evacuate troops guarding an Ottoman tomb surrounded by ISIL terrorists in neighboring Syria.

TRT television broadcaster said on Sunday that the overnight military operation kicked off when ground troops supported by warplanes entered Syrian territory to evacuate the troops.

Thought for Today

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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Report:

Iraq Removes ISIL Siege on Area in al-Baghdadi



Iraqi army soldiers at the Ain al-Asad air base in Anbar province

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi government forces have succeeded in breaking a siege imposed by the ISIL terror group on a residential compound in the western town of al-Baghdadi, officials say.

According to a security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, Iraqi troops, supported by lo-

cal tribal fighters, managed to break the week-long siege on the compound in al-Baghdadi in the western province of Anbar.

“The forces were able to push the terrorist organization at least 1 kilometer away from the compound,” the official added.

Sabah Karhut, the head of An-

bar’s local council, also confirmed the report, adding that the troops launched a major operation Saturday to force the extremists out of al-Baghdadi located near the Ain al-Asad airbase, which reportedly houses hundreds of US marines.

“Heavy losses have been inflicted on Daesh in the area,” he told

the Iraqi broadcaster Alsumaria, using an Arabic acronym for the ISIL.

The terrorists targeted the strategic airbase with artillery and rocket fire last week.

The ISIL siege, which had blocked the access of hundreds of families to food and medical supplies, was imposed after Iraqi security forces managed to retake from the Takfiri terrorists the center of al-Baghdadi earlier this month.

The extremist group 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.

The ISIL terrorists have been carrying out horrific acts of violence, including public decapitations, against all Iraqi communities such as Shias, Sunnis, Kurds and Christians.

Iraqi soldiers, police units, Kurdish forces, Shia volunteers and Sunni tribesmen have recently managed to drive the ISIL terrorists out of some areas in Iraq.

The extremist group, which also controls swathes of land in Syria, has reportedly established a foothold in Libya in recent weeks.

UNICEF, DCI:

Palestinian Child Prisoners Abused in Zionist Lock-ups

TEHRAN (FNA) – A report by the UNICEF documented proofs of ongoing and systematic mistreatment of Palestinian child prisoners in the Israeli lock-ups.

UNICEF said in a report on Saturday that all the proofs collected by the UN-run group corroborate that Palestinian child prisoners have been subjected to mistreatment by the Israeli wardens, PIC reported.

Defense for Children International, meanwhile, said data collected last year found out that over ¾ of Palestinian children incarcerated in the Israeli jails have been subjected to physical torture both in the detention and interrogation phases.

50 %of Palestinian minor detainees have also been exposed to strip searches, the report added.

In 93 percent of cases, children were deprived of legal counsel, and

rarely informed of their rights before the detention phase, it said.

The organization voiced deep concern over the long periods of solitary lock-downs endured by Palestinian minor captives pending interrogation, a policy that amounts to torture under international law.

Despite the ongoing dialogue between the UNICEF and the Israeli regime over the past two years, the latter have failed to introduce practical changes and did not display any serious intents to halt abuse of Palestinian child prisoners.

A report issued by the UNICEF in 2013, entitled “Children in the Israeli military detention” and documenting evidence of mistreatment, culminated in 38 recommendations to end Israel’s policies of psychological torture against Palestinian minor detainees.

Thousands of Homeless Palestinians in Gaza Struggle Amid Cold Snap



The photo shows a Palestinian woman and her children whose home was destroyed in the Zionist regime’s summer onslaught.

GAZA STRIP (Press TV) – Tens of thousands of Palestinians left homeless after the occupying regime’s latest military aggression against the besieged Gaza Strip are still struggling to cope with harsh winter conditions in the impoverished territory.

Many Gaza residents displaced and left homeless by last summer’s brutal bombing and shelling of the blockaded territory by the Israeli military forces continue to face difficult conditions in their efforts to keep warm amid cold snap across the besieged enclave.

A large number of Palestinian families are still living in tents put up outside their devastated homes. Power supply is patchy and motorists are faced with

fuel shortage despite pledges of international assistance for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure in Gaza.

Heavy rainfall and flooding have already deteriorated the conditions there as the Zionist regime continues to maintain a crippling economic blockade on the Palestinian territory, which has been in place since 2007.

Egypt has also sided with the Israeli regime following the massive military aggression in the summer by shutting down its Rafah border crossing into Gaza, preventing aid to reach the enclave.

In January, Israeli rights group B’Tselem revealed that the Tel Aviv regime had deliberately targeted Palestinian homes, killing hundreds by bombing them despite near certainty that they were occupied.

The occupying regime has refused to allow construction material into Gaza. This has prevented reconstruction from taking place, leaving many with little hope for rebuilding their homes.

Nearly 2,200 Palestinians, including 577 children, were killed in the Zionist onslaught of 2014. Some 100,000 people are still homeless in the besieged sliver.

Kuwait Jails Ex-MP for Insulting Country’s Ruler

KUWAIT CITY (Dispatches) – A prominent opposition leader in Kuwait has been sentenced to two years in jail on charges of insulting the Persian Gulf Arab state’s ruler, his party says.

Kuwait’s appeals court on Sunday slapped the jail term on former member of the Kuwaiti parliament, Mussallam al-Barrak, his nationalist Popular Action Movement (PAM) said.

“You can jail my body but not my ideas and will,” PAM quoted

Barrak as saying, adding that the campaign for reform in the oil-rich nation would continue.

The ex-MP was arrested on charges related to a speech he gave to tens of thousands of people in October 2012, in which he criticized changes to the electoral law. Barrak had said that the new law allows the ruling Al Sabah family to manipulate the outcome of elections.

He was initially sentenced by a lower court to five years in jail in

April 2013.

In July last year, Barrak was arrested on separate charges of insulting the judiciary.

He was questioned over so-called offensive remarks he made at a June 10 public rally, in which he said former senior officials including members of the ruling family took tens of billions of dollars from public funds and engaged in money laundering.

The Persian Gulf nation was the first Arab state to establish

an elected parliament in 1962. However, the Al Sabah family remained in control of most key posts, including the premiership and the ministries of defense, interior, and foreign affairs.

Human Rights Watch has criticized the Kuwaiti government for its crackdown on activists and protesters over the last three years. The regime tightened its curb on dissent after sporadic protests erupted in the country in 2012.

Yemen Oil Revenues Drop Almost 37% in 2014

SANAA (Press TV) – The Yemeni central bank says the nation’s oil revenues suffered a drop of about USD one billion or 37 percent in 2014 due to plunging crude prices and attacks on the impoverished country’s pipelines.

The bank said in a statement that the Arab country’s revenues amounted to USD 1.673 billion last year, compared with USD 2.662 billion in 2013, Saba state news agency reported on Saturday.

“The main reasons behind the decrease were the drop in Yemen’s production capacity and in oil prices as well as the attacks on the pipeline” linking oil fields in Ma’rib Province

with the coastal Hudayda Province,” the statement added.

Yemen is a minor oil producer but its income from oil production constitutes some 70 percent of government revenue and about 90 percent of its exports.

Tribesmen have repeatedly sabotaged Yemen’s oil and gas pipelines to put pressure on the central government to meet their demands.

Last November, heavily armed tribesmen blew up a major crude oil pipeline in Yemen’s central province of Marib. The attack hit a section of the pipeline in the Sarwah district of the province, situated approximately 120 kilometers

(74 miles) east of the Yemeni capital, Sana’a. The explosion stopped oil flow from the Safir oil fields in Marib Province to the Ras Isa floating export oil terminal on the Red Sea coast.

According to government figures, attacks on infrastructure have cost the impoverished country USD 4.5 billion between March 2011 and March 2013 alone.

Pakistan Rescue Workers Retrieve Bodies of 7 Miners

ISLAMABAD (AFP) – The bodies of seven miners killed in a coal mine explosion in Pakistan’s southwestern Baluchistan Province have been retrieved.

Rescue workers on Sunday managed to pull out the bodies of seven miners who were trapped under rubble after the mine collapsed due to a methane gas explosion, according to Shahzeb Kakar, a local government official in southwestern Pakistan’s Baluchistan Province.

The mine is located in Loralai district’s Dukki town, some 145 kilometers (90 miles) off the provincial capital of Quetta.

A rescue worker also died during the search operation, Kakar said.

The body of another worker had been recovered initially, while seven others remained trapped inside, the World Bulletin website quoted Abdul Waheed Kakar, a government official in Loralai, as saying.

“Rescue workers entered the

coalmine after hours-long struggle, but all seven workers had died by that time because of suffocation,” Kakar added.

“A poisonous gas penetrated inside the coal mine causing the death of seven miners,” Pakistan’s English-language newspaper, Dawn, quoted Rasheed Abro, a senior coalmine inspector, as saying.

According to Kakar, arrangements have been made to hand over the bodies to the victims’ families.