

WASHINGTON (Press TV) – Leaked footage obtained from a staffer of US Senator John McCain shows the making of an ISIL “execution” video similar to the videos portraying the beheading of James Foley and other victims. In the three-and-a-half minute video, ISIL executioner Jihadi John (aka Mohammed Emwazi) can be seen standing in front of a green screen, beside a kneeling hostage wearing an orange jumpsuit and a green screen hood in a fully equipped studio in the presence of a production crew, the Leaksources website recently reported.

Some of us feel that death is meant for everybody except themselves or it is destined to others and not to themselves or those whom we see dying around us are only travelers going on a journey and will come back to us.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UN:

Violence Claims 15,000 Iraqi Lives Since 2014

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – A new report released by the United Nations shows that terrorism and armed conflict have left nearly 15,000 civilians dead and twice as many wounded in Iraq since the start of 2014 as the conflict-stricken Arab country continues to battle the Takfiri ISIL terrorists.

According to the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) report, entitled “Report on the Protection of Civilians in the Armed Conflict in Iraq”, a total of 14,947 Iraqis lost their lives while 29,189 others were injured from the beginning of 2014 until the end of April 2015.

The report shows that the situation of civilians in ISIL-held areas remains dire.

“Civilians continued to be murdered, often in grim public spectacles,” it said, adding those perceived to be opposed to ISIL ideology or affiliated with Iraqi government forces have been systematically abducted, killed or targeted.

The UNAMI report further noted



ISIL terrorists shoot captured Iraqi soldiers in an undisclosed location in Iraq’s western province of Anbar.

that members of ethnic and religious communities in areas under ISIL control continue to be persecuted, and that as many as 3,500 Izadi Kurds remain in ISIL captivity, suffering physical and sexual violence as well as degrading treat-

ment on a daily basis.

Moreover, ISIL extremists forcibly recruit civilians, among them children, in several troubled Iraqi provinces, namely al-Anbar and Nineveh. Some children are taken to ISIL training camps in neighboring

Syria, where they are taught combat skills, learn how to use assault rifles and deal with prisoners, and given lessons in extremist ideology.

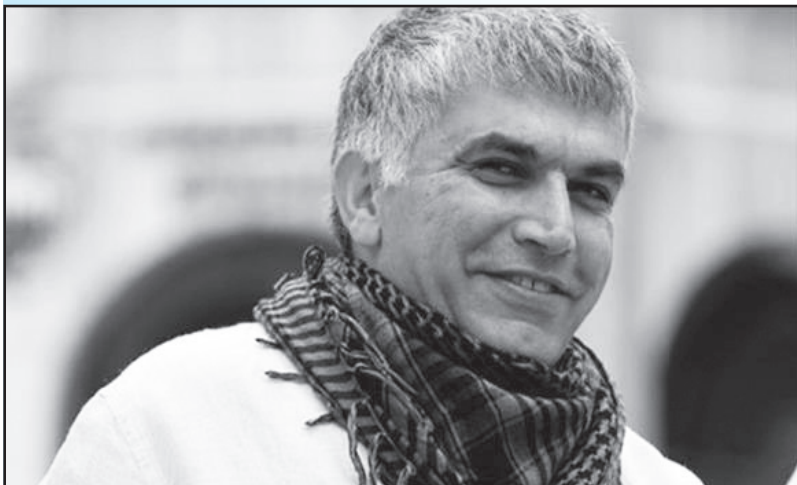
“UNAMI continues to have grave concerns for the thousands of civilians subjected to human rights violations on a daily basis, particularly by ISIL,” said Jan Kubis, the special representative of the United Nations secretary general for Iraq.

“Parties to the conflict are required by international human rights law and international humanitarian law to prevent such violations and abuses from taking place and to ensure that civilians are spared to the fullest extent possible from the ongoing violence,” Kubis added.

The northern and western parts of Iraq have been plagued by violence ever since Takfiri ISIL terrorists began their march through Iraqi territory in June 2014.

The heavily-armed terrorists took control of Mosul before sweeping through parts of the country’s heartland.

‘Bahrain’s Nabeel Rajab Released Due to Health Reasons’



Bahraini human rights activist Nabeel Rajab

MANAMA (Press TV) – Prominent Bahraini human rights activist Nabeel Rajab has been released from prison due to “health reasons”, Bahraini media say.

According to a report by Bah-

raini official news agency BNA on Monday, the activist, who had been serving a six-month jail sentence, was granted “a special pardon for health reasons”.

There have been no further details

on the decree issued by Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Brian J. Dooley of the Human Rights First welcomed the move but slammed the Bahraini regime for arresting the political activist.

“The release of Rajab is welcome news, but he should never have been jailed in the first place,” Dooley said.

He further noted the freedom of the Bahraini activist does not help the resolution of political crisis in the Persian Gulf state, and called for the release of all political prisoners.

“Shuffling political dissidents in and out of jail isn’t driving Bahrain in the direction in needs to go to achieve the inclusive political settlement it desperately needs. As one is released another is arrested to fill the empty prison bunk. A real

solution to Bahrain’s political crisis won’t happen until the leading critics of the government who remain in prison are released,” Dooley added.

On July 7, the European Parliament adopted a resolution, calling on Bahraini authorities to release all jailed political activists in the country.

Rajab was sentenced to six months in prison in January for posting tweets deemed critical of the Al Khalifa regime. In May, a Bahraini court upheld Rajab’s six-month jail. Known internationally for his peaceful human rights work, Rajab spent two years in prison from mid-2012 to mid-2014.

Rajab’s family says he was arrested on April 2 for posting comments on Twitter denouncing torture in a regime detention center where activists are held.

29 Wounded as Bomb Blast Hits Afghan Mosque

KABUL (Dispatches) – At least 29 people, including senior local government officials, sustained injuries when a bomb explosion ripped through a mosque in Afghanistan’s northern province of Baghlan.

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the terrorist attack took place as a large number of people had gathered at the mosque in the provincial capital city of Puli Khumri, located 230 kilometers (142 miles) north of the capital, Kabul, for a public fast-breaking ceremony.

Deputy director for the Baghlan public health department, Abdul Halim Ghafari, said a female adviser to provincial governor Sultan Mohammad Ebadi and a provincial lawmaker were among those

wounded in the bombing.

No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

Afghanistan faces a security challenge years after the United States and its allies invaded the country in 2001 as part of Washington’s so-called war on terror. The offensive removed Taliban from power, but many areas in the country are still beset with insecurity.

At least 13,500 foreign forces remain in Afghanistan despite the end of the US-led combat mission, which came on December 31, 2014. The forces, mainly from the US, are there for what Washington calls a support mission. NATO says the forces focus mainly on counter-terrorism operations as well as training Afghan soldiers and policemen.

Saudi Warplanes Launch Fresh Raids Across Yemen



A Yemeni man sits amid the rubble of his family house damaged in a Saudi airstrike on the capital Sana’a.

SANAA (Press TV) – Fresh Saudi airstrikes have reportedly pounded different areas across Yemen in a blatant violation of a UN-sponsored ceasefire in the Arabian Peninsula country.

Saudi warplanes hit a residential area as well as a military base in the capital Sana’a, al-Masirah news channel reported. However, there have been no immediate reports of casualties.

Airstrikes also targeted areas in Yemen’s central province of Ma’rib, northwestern province of Sa’ada as well as southwestern province of Aden.

The attacks come after Saudi air raids left dozens of people dead in the Yemeni capital’s Sa’awan neighborhood early on Monday.

Sources at the country’s Health Ministry said that the death toll from the airstrikes has jumped to

25 from 10. Some 50 people also suffered injuries in the attacks.

Meanwhile, Yemen’s Ansarullah fighters and allied army units have reportedly hit several areas inside the Saudi kingdom in retaliation for the deadly offensive.

Saudi Arabia has launched the new attacks just days after a humanitarian truce was announced in Yemen on Friday. The UN Security Council urged all sides to observe the break in fighting, which was set to run up to the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan on July 17.

The monarchy started deadly military campaign against Yemen on March 26 – without a UN mandate.

According to the UN, over 3,000 people, including 1,500 civilians, have been killed over the past three months in the impoverished country.

After Year in Prison Zionist Regime Releases Palestinian Lawmaker

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s authorities have released Palestinian parliament member Riyad Mahmoud Raddad from detention after a year of imprisonment.

Amina Tawil, a spokesperson for the Palestine Prisoners Center for Studies, said the 55-year-old Palestinian legislator was freed from Ktzi’ot Prison in the Negev desert, located 72 kilometers (45 miles) southwest of the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, on Monday.

The Zionist troops detained Raddad in a wave of abductions linked to the alleged disappearance of three teenage Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank in June 2014.

Most of the Palestinians detained during Israel’s arrest campaign were members of Hamas resistance movement, including the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), Abdul Aziz Duwaik.

Tawil said Zionist officials sentenced Raddad to 12 months in jail after he was charged with “organizing marches in support of

the prisoners.”

On July 9, the occupying regime released Hamas-affiliated Palestinian parliament member Nayef Rajoub after a year in so-called administrative detention, which allows the Israeli regime to imprison Palestinians without charge or trial for months or years.

The Israeli military had arrested Rajoub in June 2014 as part of a round-up of hundreds of Hamas members in the West Bank.

On June 25, Senior Hamas leader and Palestinian lawmaker Hassan Yousef were freed after a year in Israeli custody. His release came shortly after Aziz Duwaik, the elected speaker of the PLC, was also freed from Israeli jail after spending a year behind bars.

According to the Ahrar Center, a Palestinian prisoners’ rights organization, 10 members of Palestine’s parliament are being held in Israeli jails.

Over 7,000 Palestinians are reportedly incarcerated in 17 the regime’s prisons and detention camps.

Turkey Court Annuls Controversial Educational Law

ANKARA (AFP) – Turkey’s Constitutional Court has ruled to invalidate a controversial law that sought to close down private preparatory schools in the country, which are mostly run by the US-exiled opposition figure, Fethullah Gulen. The court ruled late on Monday that the law adopted by the parliament in March 2014 to completely close down the centers, known as dershanes in Turkish, as of September 1, 2015, was unconstitutional.

The measure to annul the legislation was adopted following a petition by Turkey’s main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP). The dershanes are very popular in Turkey. A total of 3,800 of these centers are catering for 1.2 million students, who are seeking to win a place in top schools and most sought-after universities. Opponents of the law argued that the legislation would exclude the most underprivileged students from top academic centers, and augment the impact of socio-economic differences on the results of entrance examinations. The critics further noted that the law was contrary to Turkey’s Constitution, including Article 17, which says that “everyone has the right to the protection and development of tangible and intangible assets.” The Justice and Development Party (AK Party) government, in a surprise move, decided in November 2013 to close dershanes as part of educational reforms. The AK Party government’s bill engineered by then Prime Minister and now President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was passed by the parliament on March 7, 2014 and signed into law by then President Abdullah Gul five days later.