

# Saudi Troops Suffer More Losses in Yemen

SANAA (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia suffers new losses in its ongoing war on neighboring Yemen, with a spy drone shot down and more troops and mercenaries killed by Houthi fighters.

A military source said Yemeni army soldiers and allied Houthi fighters downed a Saudi drone in Midi Desert in the northwestern Hajjah Province on Sunday.

Yemeni fighters also foiled an attempt by Saudi mercenaries to infiltrate into a military base in Dhale Province, the Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported.

Separately, Sudan's army spokesperson Ahmed Khalifa al-Shami said two of the African country's troops were killed and several others injured in Yemen.

Last month, the Sudanese army said five of its soldiers had been killed and 22 others injured in Yemen.

On Saturday, Yemeni army snipers shot dead two Saudi soldiers in two separate military bases in the kingdom's southern Najran region.

Additionally, a unit of the Yemeni military targeted a place of gathering for Saudi mercenaries in Midi Desert.

After more than two years of constant military strikes from the air, sea, and land, and a total embargo on Yemen, Saudi Arabia has been unable to reinstall the former Riyadh-allied Yemeni regime or eliminate the Houthi movement.

Saudi Arabia enjoys backing from its allies such as Sudan in the protracted war which has already killed over 12,000 Yemenis, according to recent tallies.



This photo shows remains of a Saudi spy drone shot down by Yemeni forces in Hajjah Province on February 3, 2016.

## Cholera Outbreak

As the unrest in the impoverished country continues, the International Committee of the Red Cross says cholera has claimed the lives of at least 115 people and left thousands of others ill as hospitals struggle to cope with an influx of patients in the conflict-plagued impoverished Arab country.

Dominik Stillhart, the ICRC director of operations, said in a news conference in

the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, on Sunday that the deaths occurred between April 27 and May 13.

"We now are facing a serious outbreak of cholera," Stillhart said, citing figures compiled by the Yemeni Health Ministry.

Over 8,500 suspected cases of the waterborne disease were reported in the same period in 14 governorates across Yemen, Stillhart added.

The latest figures are up from 2,300 cases in 10 governorates last week.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Stillhart said

hospitals were filled beyond capacity with patients displaying symptoms of cholera.

"There are up to four cholera patients in one single bed," Stillhart said. "There are people in the garden, and some even in their cars with the IV drip hanging from the window."

Sherine Varkey, a UNICEF deputy representative, said patients spilled out of hospital rooms into the corridors of Sabeen hospital in Sana'a on Saturday.

# Zionist Troops Arrest Over a Dozen Palestinian Civilians



Zionist troops arrest Palestinians demonstrators amid clashes in the occupied West Bank village of Beita, southeast of Nablus city, on April 21, 2017.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have reportedly arrested more than a dozen Palestinians, including prominent writer and political analyst Ahmad Qatamish, during separate overnight operations across the occupied

## West Bank.

Local sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Zionist regime's military vehicles rolled into the central West Bank city of al-Bireh, located 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) north of al-Quds,

early on Sunday, Arabic-language Ma'an news agency reported.

Zionist troops raided Qatamish's house, and violently ransacked it before taking him away to an unknown location.

Zionist troops also stormed the town of al-Tira, and detained one Palestinian there.

Moreover, two Palestinians were detained in the village of Nahalin, one in al-Farah refugee camp in the northeastern Tubas district and two others in the city of Qalqilya.

Six Palestinians were detained in Jenin refugee camp as well. Local sources identified one of those detained as Yassin al-Amori.

The occupying regime's troops also shot a young Palestinian man in the leg during skirmishes in the camp.

Eyewitnesses, requesting anonymity, said Zionist troops raided Jenin camp in the early hours of Sunday. They broke into dozens of homes and violently

searched them, causing excessive property damage, before firing live bullets and hurling tear gas canisters to disperse the protesting crowd.

Yazan Muhammad Jaaisa, 20, was struck in the leg and transferred to Jenin governmental hospital to receive medical treatment. Doctors described his injury as "moderate."

Meanwhile, a number of Israeli bulldozers has crossed the border fence into the besieged Gaza Strip and flattened private Palestinian lands.

According to local sources, the invading convoy, dispatched from the occupying regime's Kissufim military base, advanced some 50 meters into the Palestinian territory along the separation fence, and flattened farming lands ahead.

A number of Israeli surveillance aircraft were also reported to have flown at low altitude over the area while the bulldozers were busy leveling the lands. No gunfire or shelling was reported.

# Bahrain Detains Families of UK Horse Show Critics

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Bahraini forces have taken into custody family members of three UK-based activists critical of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah's attendance at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

King Hamad on Friday was pictured alongside Britain's Queen Elizabeth II attending the event on the grounds of Windsor Castle in England, prompting protests from Bahraini human rights activists residing in the UK.

Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, the director of advocacy at the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, said his sister had been summoned to a police station in the Bahraini city of Muharraq for interrogation on Saturday.

"This is a new low by the Bahraini authorities: blackmailing activists by detaining their family members in Bahrain," he said, denouncing the



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah attend the Royal Windsor Horse Show in England on May 12, 2017.

## summoning.

The father and sister of two other UK-based Bahraini activists said they were also being held over the same incident.

Last October, Alwadaei shouted at King Hamad's car as it approached

British Prime Minister Theresa May's office in London.

Alwadaei's wife, Dua'a, and his son were detained for seven hours at Bahrain airport as they tried to fly to London.

"While King Hamad is receiving

the red carpet treatment in the UK, his goons in Bahrain are terrorizing Sayed Alwadaei's wife and their infant son, preventing them from leaving the country, and issuing unveiled threats against their families," said Nicholas McGeehan, a Bahrain researcher at Human Rights Watch.

Anti-regime protesters have taken to the streets of Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since the popular uprising began in the tiny Persian Gulf country in February 2011.

The demonstrators are demanding that the Al Khalifah dynasty relinquish power and let a just system representing all Bahrainis be established.

Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others wounded or detained amid Manama's crackdown on dissent and widespread discrimination against Bahrain's Shia majority.

## Global ...

(Continued From Page One)

India refused to send an official delegation to Beijing, reflecting displeasure with China for developing a \$57 billion trade corridor through Pakistan that also crosses the disputed territory of Kashmir.

"No country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity," said Indian foreign ministry spokesman Gopal Baglay, adding that there were concerns about host countries taking on "unsustainable debt."

China plans to import \$2 trillion of products from countries participating in its Belt and Road initiative over the next five years, Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said.

But some Western diplomats have expressed unease about both the summit and the plan as a whole, seeing it as an attempt to promote Chinese influence globally.

Australian Trade Minister Steven Ciobo said Canberra was receptive to exploring commercial opportunities China's new Silk Road presented, but any decisions would remain incumbent on national interest.

"China is willing to share its development experience with all countries," Xi said. "We will not interfere in other countries' internal affairs. We will not export our system of society and development model, and even more will not impose our views on others."

"In advancing the Belt and Road, we will not re-tread the old path of games between foes. Instead we will create a new model of cooperation and mutual benefit," Xi said.

Xi said the new Silk Road would be open to all, including Africa and the Americas, which are not situated on the traditional Silk Road.

"No matter if they are from Asia and Europe, or Africa or the Americas, they are all cooperative partners in building the Belt and Road."

The idea of cooperation and inclusiveness extends to funding projects and investments along the new trade routes, which are being developed both on land and at sea.

"We need joint effort among Belt and Road countries to boost financing cooperation," Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of China's central bank, said.

To sustain the projects, Belt and Road nations should allow companies to play a key role, as government resources are limited, Zhou said.

The active use of local currencies will also help to mobilize local savings, lower remittance and exchange costs, and safeguard financial stability, he said.

At the forum, finance ministries from 27 countries, including China, approved a set of principles that will guide project financing along the new Silk Road.

Germany, which was not among the countries that approved the financing guidelines, said its firms were willing to support the Belt and Road initiative, but more transparency was needed.

Some of China's close allies and partners were at the forum, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

There were also several European leaders attending, including the prime ministers of Spain, Italy, Greece and Hungary.

## Presidential ...

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He said liquidity under President Rouhani had ballooned by 8,000 trillion rials (\$246 billion), becoming a burden for the country and preventing it from turning its economic maladies around.

## Raeisi Decries 'Mismanagement'

Another candidate, Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi likewise said Iran suffered from economic mismanagement, while the country had everything it needed for progress at its disposal.

He was speaking in the city of Urmia in northwestern Iran, where he said his government would instill the culture of "Yes, we can" in the society.

The slogan, he said, would manifest itself in the government resorting to popular resources and "not eyeing foreigners for assistance."

Another candidate Mostafa Aqa-Mirsalim, the current member of Iran's Expediency Council, blamed Rouhani's government for a "belief that we cannot do anything without foreigners."

The incumbent government, he said, was not one of "prudence, but one of denial" of the country's problems, adding people's troubles were now worse than the 1980s when Iran was fighting a war against former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

## Iranian ...

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It was announced Tehran in March that Iran was in talks with Saudi officials to resolve the issues which had hampered the dispatch of pilgrims to the annual Muslim ceremonies in the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca.

Most of the disputed issues had been resolved in the negotiations with Saudi Arabia, and hopefully the remaining problems would be settled, Iran's representative in Hajj and pilgrimage affairs, Ali Qazi-Askar, said.

Iran plans to send at least 80,000 nationals to Saudi Arabia for Hajj pilgrimage in summer this year.

Iran decided to withdraw from sending the pilgrims to the last year Hajj season, in which it cited the reason for fearing the safety of its pilgrims after the deadly stampede in Hajj of 2015. More than 450 Iranians were among thousands of pilgrims who died in stampede in Mina area.