

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has hailed continued victories by the army forces and allies against terrorists across the country, saying his government has weathered the worst part of the conflict and is now moving in the right direction. Assad made the remarks in Damascus in an interview with the India-based WION television station, in which he expressed satisfaction with the pace the pro-government forces were recapturing territories from terrorists across the Arab country.

Blessings are for the man who controls his tongue from vicious and useless talk, who abstains from oppression, who faithfully follows the traditions of the Holy Prophet and who keeps himself away from innovation in religion.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

'100,000 Children in Dangerous Conditions in Iraq's Mosul'

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The UN has warned that children are bearing the brunt of the intensified fighting between government forces and the Daesh terrorist group in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Peter Hawkins, representative of the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Iraq, estimated on Monday that 100,000 girls and boys were still living under extremely dangerous conditions in the Daesh-held Old City neighborhood and other areas.

The UN agency is receiving "alarming reports" of civilians being killed, including children, in the city's western half, he added.

The UNICEF representative didn't give a specific number of children killed in the crossfire.

The official called on the warring sides to "protect the children and keep them out of harm's way at all times, in line with their obligations under humanitarian law."

"Children's lives are on the line. Children are being killed, injured and used as human shields.



Iraqis, among them children, leave Zanjili neighborhood in west Mosul on June 3, 2017, during the ongoing offensive by security forces to retake the city from Daesh terrorists.

Children are experiencing and witnessing terrible violence that no human being should ever witness," Hawkins said in a statement read.

"In some cases, they have been forced to participate in the fighting and violence," he added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units have managed to regain control

over nine villages west of Mosul as they engage in joint military operations with army troops to purge Takfiri terrorists out of their last urban bastion in the Arab country.

The media bureau of Iraq's Badr Organization announced in a statement that the pro-government forces, commonly known by the Arabic name Hashd al-

Sha'abi, had establish full control over the villages of Be'r al-Osai-bei, Aliyah and Sharji al-Rawi northwest of the mainly Shia-populated town of al-Ba'aj.

The statement added that Hashd al-Sha'abi fighters had also recaptured the villages of Hamd al-Madloul, Marzoukah, Touman, Raqbah al-Fores, Khirbet al-Arizah and Tale'ah al-Markab.

The Iraqi forces took control of eastern Mosul in January after 100 days of fighting, and launched the battle in the west on February 19.

Jens Laerka, the spokesperson of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said on May 30 that nearly 600,000 civilians have been displaced amid the operation by Iraq's military and volunteer fighters to drive Daesh terrorists out of western Mosul.

He added that there are still major humanitarian concerns regarding the protection of 180,000 people, who are still besieged inside Mosul's Old City and other districts north of the city.

Zionist Regime Slammed for '50 Years of Occupation Abuses'



Palestinian mourners carry the body of Mohammed Majed Bakr, a 25-year-old fisherman who died from his injuries after a Zionist patrol vessel fired at a fishing boat, during his funeral in Gaza City on May 16, 2017.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Human Rights Watch has denounced the Zionist regime's systematic abuses, repression and institutionalized discrimination in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the anniversary of the 1967 Six-Day War.

The U.S.-based group cited unlawful killings, forced displacement, abusive detention, unjustified restrictions on movement, and continued settlement expansion, along with accompanying discriminatory policies against Palestinians as among the major violations by the occupying regime.

Tel Aviv, it said, committed many of the abusive practices on the pretext of security.

"Whether it's a child imprisoned by a military court or shot unjustifiably, or a house demolished for lack of an elusive permit, or checkpoints where only settlers are allowed to pass, few Palestinians have escaped serious rights abuses during this 50-year occupation," said Sarah Leah Whitson, director of HRW's Middle East and North Africa division.

The Six-Day War was fought between June 5 and 10, 1967 by the regime on the one side and of Egypt, Jordan and Syria on the oth-

er. The Zionist regime occupied the West Bank, East al-Quds, the Gaza Strip and part of the Golan Heights during the offensive.

In November 1967, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 242, under which the regime is required to withdraw from all territories seized in the war.

"Israel today maintains an entrenched system of institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in the occupied territory - repression that extends far beyond any security rationale," Whitson added.

The HRW also called for "increasing the protection of the rights of the population of the occupied territory" as the occupation enters its second half-century.

About 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds. Palestinians want the West Bank as part of their future independent state.

According to the rights group, the occupying regime has seized thousands of square kilometers of Palestinian land for settlements and their supporting infrastructure since 1967.

Saudi Jets in Heaviest Ramadan Bombing of Yemen



Displaced Yemeni children stand outside a make-shift shelter at a camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) on the outskirts of the capital Sana'a, April 15, 2017.

SANAA (Dispatches) – Saudi warplanes have carried out the kingdom's heaviest bombardment of the Yemeni soil since the onset of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, targeting the vicinity of the Presidential Palace in the capital Sana'a.

The aircraft pounded al-Nahdain Mountain in the south of the city five times early Monday, Yemen's

official Saba' Net news agency reported. The strikes destroyed several residential buildings and inflicted other material damage, but there was no immediate word on possible casualties.

Also on Monday, Yemen's al-Masirah television network released footage of the damage caused a day earlier by Saudi airstrikes on a health center in the

northwestern province of Sa'ada, used to treat cholera patients.

The attack took place as the outbreak continues to spread across the country, having already claimed more than 600 lives.

As Yemen is struggling with a cholera epidemic, Saudi warplanes have reportedly stricken a health center treating cholera patients in the impoverished country's extreme northwest.

The attack killed and injured a number of people at the facility in the Sa'ada Province, Yemen's al-Masirah television network reported, citing the province's health authority.

The epidemic has claimed the lives of 605 Yemenis, 40 percent of whom were children.

UN envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said on Tuesday that only "less than 45 percent" of medical facilities in the country were functioning.

The disease brings along severe diarrhea, which can kill those af-

flicted within hours if not treated properly. Malnourished children are especially susceptible.

In March 2015, the Saudi regime and its allies, backed by the U.S., began a military campaign against Yemen to reinstall its former government. The war has killed over 12,000 civilians since then.

The invasion has been compounded by a Saudi blockade of the country. Back in May, the UN's children fund reported an unprecedented increase in the number of suspected cholera cases across the country, and said many of those affected were children.

"Yemen has one of the world's highest number of acutely malnourished children. Public services are on the brink of collapse," the UNICEF warned, saying, "Anyone with a heart for children cannot let the situation in Yemen continue!"

Attempts at ceasefire have all failed so far on the back of repeated Saudi violations.

Insider Attack Kills 6 Police in Afghanistan

KABUL (Dispatches) – At least six police officers have been killed when their two rogue colleagues opened fire and shot them dead in southern Afghanistan.

Local Afghan authorities said that the deadly shooting took place in Kandahar province. Some provincial officials confirmed that the as-

sault also wounded the Kandahar City district police chief.

Qari Yusouf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, in a statement claimed responsibility for the fatal assault, saying that both attackers were their men who joined the police rank just to carry out such an attack and both devoted their lives

for their aim.

The so-called insider attacks, when Afghan soldiers and police turn their guns on their colleagues or on U.S.-led troops, have created mistrust between local forces and their U.S.-led partners during more than 16 years of war.

In late April, the Taliban militant

group announced the start of their "spring offensive", saying they would target foreign forces in the country, heralding a fresh round of fighting in the drawn-out conflict.

The Taliban warned of further "complex attacks and inside attacks" by soldiers or police turning against their peers.

UN Urged to Stop U.S.-Led Coalition From Killing Syrian Civilians

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – Syria has strongly denounced repeated deadly airstrikes carried out by the so-called U.S.-led military coalition in the Arab country, calling on the United Nations and the Security Council to stop Washington and its allies from killing Syrian civilians and increasingly damaging the country's infrastructure.

In two letters to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the head of UN Security Council on Sunday, Syria's Foreign Ministry lambasted the U.S.-led coalition's airstrikes in Syria's northern city of Raqqah, which killed at least 43 people in the Jomeili neighborhood.

The ministry said the "crimes" committed by the so-called military alliance are no way less than those perpetrated by the Daesh terrorist group against the Syrian civilians. It also said, in the pair of letters, that the airstrikes directly target country's infrastructure, "including bridges, oil and gas wells, dams, electricity and water plants, and public and private buildings."

The U.S. and its allies have been bombarding what they call Daesh

positions inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization, whatsoever, from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry further said the real goal of the U.S.-led coalition "are totally in contradiction with" its declared claims of eliminating Daesh terrorists and curbing other terror outfits in the Middle Eastern country, adding that fighting Daesh does not require targeting civilians, infrastructure and the Syrian army troops and their positions.

The development comes as Syrian army soldiers have managed to liberate a key town in the northern province of Aleppo from Daesh terrorists as they continue to score more territorial gains in battles against extremists across the war-ravaged Arab country.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Syria's official news agency, SANA, that Syrian troops had regained control of Maskanah town, which lies on the western bank of Lake Assad and is located 100 kilometers (62 miles) southeast of the provincial capital city of Aleppo.