

# 'Barbaric' Murders Highlight Plight of Syrians in Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Rock-wielding attackers have raped and bludgeoned to death a Syrian refugee in Turkey just days before she was due to give birth and strangled her 10-month-old baby.

The brutal double murder amid a groundswell of public hatred and racist attacks has raised new worries about the safety of refugees in Turkey which is one of the key players in the Syria crisis.

Turkish authorities have detained two men who reportedly confessed to the barbaric attack, Dogan news agency reported.

The attackers, it said, broke into the home where the young woman and her baby boy lived, taking them to a forest in the western city of Sakarya where villagers found their bodies Thursday.

The woman was reportedly due to give birth Friday. The victim's husband reportedly worked at a factory with the two assailants and they had an argument a few days earlier.

The attack came in the wake of racist hashtags on Twitter including #SuriyelilerEvineDonsun (Syrians should go home) and



Syrian baby lies in a cart as his family break their fast in the city of Diyarbakir in southwestern Turkey, June 16, 2017.

#SuriyelilerSinirdisiEdilsin (Syrians should be deported) which went viral in Turkey.

Authorities denounced the campaign and pledged to punish the perpetrators of the "brutal massacre".

Turkish media reports and postings

have been blaming Syrians for an alleged escalation in crime in Turkey.

Earlier this week, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu was forced to dismiss the claims, saying the annual rate of Syrians involved in crimes between 2014 and 2017 was just over

1 percent.

Turkey is reportedly home to nearly three million Syrian refugees who have fled a brutal war in their country. Many foreign terrorists fighting in Syria have mostly used Turkey to cross into the Arab country.

## 'Saudi Arabia to Blame for Yemen Cholera Outbreak'



A Yemeni child suspected of being infected with cholera receives treatment at Sabaen Hospital in Sana'a, June 13, 2017.

SANAA (Russia Today) – Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, has singled out Saudi Arabia as the source of what the United Nations estimates to be the world's worst cholera outbreak in Yemen.

The Russia Today Arabic news channel quoted Saleh as saying that the Saudi-led coalition was behind the spread of the highly contagious disease through the use of internationally banned weapons.

"The coalition is using devastating weapons such as cluster and thermobaric bombs which leave very harmful effects for the people of Yemen," he added.

Medics have begun a field research to find out the sources of the cholera epidemic. What they have found

strengthens the idea that Saudi Arabia has started a biological war against Yemen.

Saudi Arabia has been bombing Yemen since March 2015 in a bid to restore Saleh's successor Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a Riyadh ally, to power. Yemen's crisis began after Hadi stepped down as president and refused to negotiate power-sharing with the country's Houthis.

For much of the world, cholera, a bacterial infection spread by water contaminated with faeces, has been relegated to the history books. But the war has damaged Yemen's infrastructure and deepened poverty, allowing the disease to come roaring back.

## Turkey's Human Rights Violations 'Serious'

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Amnesty International has called on world leaders at the G20 summit in the German city of Hamburg to stand up to "violations of human rights" by the Ankara government.

"The country is in a serious human rights crisis," Amnesty Secretary General Salil Shetty said in Hamburg.

"It is impossible for the G20 on the one hand to say it upholds values of democracy and free speech and on the other ignore blatant violations of human rights," he added.

Shetty was in the German city to lobby G20 leaders to help secure the release of the local director and chair of the rights group, who are among thousands arrested in a crackdown that followed the July 2016 failed coup against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Shetty described the Turkish leader, who is attending the G20 summit, as a "hyper-nationalist" ruler using repressive measures to increase popularity at home.

Turkish police arrested Amnesty's Turkey Director Idil Eser and several other activists on July 5. The detention came less than a month after a court ordered the arrest of the local head of Amnesty International, Taner Kilic, for alleged links to U.S.-based opposition cleric Fethullah Gulen, who is accused by Ankara of having orchestrated last year's abortive coup.

Turkey witnessed a coup attempt on July 15, 2016, when a faction of the military declared that Erdogan's government was no more in charge of the country.

A few hours later, however, the coup was suppressed. Almost 250 people were killed and nearly 2,200 others wounded in the abortive



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a final press conference on the second day of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, July 8, 2017.

coup. Since then, Ankara has been engaged in suppressing the media and opposition groups who were believed to have played a role in the failed putsch. Over 50,000

people have been arrested and 150,000 others sacked or suspended from a wide range of professions, including soldiers, police, teachers, and public servants, over alleged links to terrorist groups.

## Protesters Want Zionist PM Graft Probes to Speed Up

WESTBANK (Dispatches) – Hundreds of Israelis have held a demonstration near Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit's home to denounce the slow progress in corruption investigations involving Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The protest, which did not have a police permit, took place in the city of Petah Tikva on Saturday, the 32nd such weekly event near Mandelblit's home, Ynetnews website reported.

Waving placards reading "free us from corruption" and "Netanyahu is a disaster," demonstrators shouted slogans such as, "government of the corrupt" and "Netanyahu resign!"

Protester Aliza Hershkowitz accused Netanyahu of dividing Israel, saying, "That's how the worst leaders in history acted."

"I am a grandmother and I decided that I would not sit still as long as I see the

corruption around us," she said. "If there is such corruption, then you have to go out into the streets."

Yehezkel Baghdadi, another participant in Saturday's rally, said, "I have been demonstrating here since day one, driving around with a sign on my car that says 'Bibi the Prime Minister of Thieves'."

He further stressed that if Israeli opposition leader Isaac Herzog had done

what Netanyahu did, the premier would have called for mass protests to kick him out.

"We will slowly bring the people out (to the streets), we will multiply and become thousands," he added.

Earlier this week, Mandelblit said the two major probes involving Netanyahu, called Case 1,000 and Case 2,000, were "moving forward at high speed" and there would be no short cuts.

## Iraq ...

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Even in the final days of the battle, thousands of civilians remained trapped inside the Old City and those who fled arrived grief-stricken after losing relatives in Takfiri sniper fire and bombardments.

Around 915,000 residents have fled Mosul since the start of the battle for the city in October, the United Nations said this week.

Abadi declared on Twitter late last month that "we are seeing the end of the fake (Daesh) state."

The recapture of Mosul will not however mark the end of the threat posed by Daesh, which holds territory elsewhere in Iraq and is able to carry out frequent bombings in government-held areas.

The retaking of Mosul will no doubt inspire hope among many Iraqis: hope that they can return home, rebuild their lives, and heal the divisions within their society. But these hopes will not be realized quickly or easily. Mosul residents continue to face severe risks from revenge attacks and explosives, and a lack of clean water, healthcare, and other basic services.

The United Nations predicts it will cost more than \$1bn to repair basic infrastructure in Mosul. In some of the worst affected areas, almost no buildings appear to have escaped damage, and Mosul's dense construction means the extent of the devastation might be underestimated, UN officials said.

Meanwhile, The Takfiri terrorists are expected to revert to insurgent tactics as they lose more territory.

## German ...

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A Turkish official confirmed that the withdrawal had started, saying Germany's defense minister had informed her Turkish counterpart of the withdrawal date when they met during the NATO summit in Brussels.

Turkey had refused to allow German lawmakers to make what they saw as a routine visit to the base, saying that Berlin needed to improve its attitude towards Turkey first.

Germany had banned some Turkish politicians from campaigning on its soil for a referendum on giving President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sweeping new powers. Ankara responded by accusing Berlin of "Nazi-like" tactics and reigniting the dispute over Incirlik.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday that a bilateral meeting with Erdogan had revealed "deep differences" between the two NATO allies.

"The many arrests, the overall actions in Turkey, and the failure to allow visits to Incirlik (air base) - those are all developments that show deep differences and we did not sweep them under the table," Merkel told reporters after the end of the two-day G20 summit in Hamburg.

Turkey's sweeping arrests of alleged state enemies after last year's coup attempt and a dispute about the NATO base "are developments which I of course raised that show deep differences," Merkel said. "And we didn't sweep those under the table".

## Qatar ...

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Doha's National Human Rights Committee in June said the sanctions represented a violation of the rights of some 140 Qatari pupils studying in the UAE, Saudi and Bahrain.

Qatar Airways has made Doha a global hub in just a few years, but experts say neighboring Persian Gulf states barring it from their airspace threaten its position as a major transcontinental carrier.

On 22 June, the four Arab states issued a 13-point list of demands, including downgrading ties with Iran and shutting down broadcaster Al Jazeera, as a prerequisite to lifting the sanctions.

Doha refused to comply with the demands and rejects accusations of ties

to extremist groups.

The Compensation Claims Committee will be overseen by Marri as well as officials from the ministry of foreign affairs and ministry of justice.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is expected to fly on Monday to Kuwait - the Persian Gulf state that has been acting as a mediator in the crisis.

The U.S. State Department's spokeswoman, Heather Nauert, said on Friday that Washington had become "increasingly concerned that the dispute is at an impasse" and could yet continue for months.

## Istanbul ...

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Organizers said the weeklong event expressed "a collective, nonpartisan desire for an independent and fair judicial system" that they claim is lacking in Turkey. No party flags or slogans were allowed during the on the march.

The government has accused Kilicdaroglu of supporting terrorist groups through his protest. President Erdogan has said he is violating the law by attempting to influence the judiciary.

Turkey's definition of supporting terror is so broad that it has caused an impasse in the country's bid for European Union membership.

Parliament member Enis Berberoglu was sentenced last month to 25 years in prison for revealing state secrets for allegedly leaking footage to an opposition newspaper suggesting that Turkey's intelligence service had smuggled weapons to Takfiri terrorists in Syria.

In a New York Times op-ed Friday, Kilicdaroglu called the case against Berberoglu "the last straw in a series of antidemocratic moves" by Erdogan's government "targeting tens of thousands of Turkish citizens - politicians, journalists, academics, activists or ordinary citizens."

Following last year's failed coup, the government imposed a state of emergency leading to the arrest of more than 50,000 people and the dismissal of some 100,000 civil servants. A dozen lawmakers from the pro-Kurdish opposition party have also been jailed.

Ordinary citizens, sacked public employees and high-profile figures have joined Kilicdaroglu on his march. Novelist Asli Erdogan and leading Kurdish politician Ahmet Turk, both released from jail pending trial on various terror-related charges, as well as Yonca Sik, the wife of a prominent journalist currently in prison, were just a few.

Istanbul governor Vasip Sahin said 15,000 police officers were providing security at the post-march rally.

The U.S. Consulate issued a security message asking American citizens to exercise caution as "terrorists have targeted political rallies in the past, and that demonstrations and large events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence."

## Russian ...

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The Iranian delegation to the meeting will raise the issue of the United States' lack of commitment to its obligations under the JCPOA.

The seventh meeting of the Iran-P5+1 Joint Commission, which monitors the implementation of JCPOA, was held in Vienna in April.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia - plus Germany signed the JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016.

Under the agreement, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all nuclear-related bans against the Islamic Republic.

The UN Security Council later unanimously endorsed a resolution that effectively turned the JCPOA into international law.