

CAIRO (Miami Herald) – The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists says a Yemeni journalist has been denied a visa to the United States where she is set to receive a press award. The CPJ said on Sunday said that prominent Yemeni journalist Afrah Nasser may not be able to attend the Nov. 15 ceremony to receive the International Free Press Award. The Trump administration in September announced the most recent U.S. travel bans, which include restrictions on Yemeni citizens.

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# ‘U.S. Wiped Syria’s Raqqah off Face of Earth’

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia says the U.S. has wiped the Syrian city of Raqqah “off the face of the earth” with carpet bombing in the same way the United States and Britain bombed Germany’s Dresden in 1945.

In a statement released on Sunday, the Russian Defense Ministry accused the West of having rushed to provide aid to Raqqah to cover up its own crimes.

“Raqqah has inherited the fate of Dresden in 1945, wiped off the face of the earth by Anglo-American bombardments,” said Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Major General Igor Konashenko.

Recently, Daesh terrorists left Raqqah, their former “capital” in Syria, as part of a deal with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the U.S.-led coalition. Thus, the U.S.-backed Kurdish-dominated SDF announced full control over the city.

Konashenko complained that the West had turned down Russia’s requests for humanitarian aid to Syrian civilians.

“What is behind the rush by Western capitals to provide targeted financial help only to Raqqah?” he asked. “There’s only one ex-



A member of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) stands amidst the ruins of buildings near the Clock Square in Raqqah, Syria, October 18, 2017.

planation - the desire to cover up evidence of the barbaric bombardments by the U.S. air force and the coalition as fast as possible and to bury the thousands of civilians ‘liberated’ from Daesh in the ruins.”

The Russian official also accused the U.S. of overplaying the significance of the fall of Raqqah.

“The bravura statements by official representatives of the U.S. administration about the ‘outstanding victory’ over Daesh in Raqqah

prompt bafflement,” he said.

Konashenko estimated that some 200,000 people had lived in Raqqah before the crisis erupted in Syria in 2011, but now not more than 45,000 people remained there.

The U.S. and its allies have been bombarding what they call Daesh positions inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

The airstrikes, however, have on many occasions resulted in civilian

casualties and failed to fulfill their declared aim of countering terrorism.

In another development, SDF, says it has seized control of one of Syria’s largest oil fields in the eastern Dayr al-Zawr Province.

The SDF announced on Sunday the capture of al-Omar oil field, situated some 10 kilometers north of the town of al-Mayadin, which was recently liberated from the grip of Daesh terrorists by government forces.

With Daesh on the retreat amid government advances in Dayr al-Zawr, the SDF has recently pushed to capture as much territory as possible in the province, including a number of gas fields.

The developments are seen by analysts as a prelude to the further flare-up of tensions in the region.

The SDF, which is dominated by the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) militia, has reportedly shelled the positions of pro-Damascus troops on several occasions.

Earlier this week, Daesh terrorists left Raqqah, their former “capital” in Syria, as part of a deal with the SDF and the US-led coalition. Thus, the SDF announced full control over the city.

## ‘Saudi, UAE Secretly Worked for Kurdistan Secession’



Saudi Arabia’s King Salman (L) talks to president of Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRG) Masoud Barzani in Riyadh, Dec. 1, 2015.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have supported the Iraqi Kurdistan region’s push for secession in an attempt to counter Turkey, Iran and Iraq, a report says.

In an article published on Saturday, David Hearst, the editor in chief of the Middle East Eye (MEE) news portal, drew a parallel between the Zionist regime’s stance on the Kurdish vote and that of Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

The controversial Kurdish referendum took place on September 25, sparking strong objection from Baghdad and Iraq’s neighbors, particularly Iran and Turkey.

Only Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly voiced support for what he called the “legitimate efforts of the Kurdish people to attain a state of their own.”

Major General Yair Golan, former Zionist army deputy chief, also defended the Kurdish secession as well as the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), which is outlawed in Turkey.

“From my personal point of view the PKK is not a terrorist organization, that’s how I see it,” Golan said.

According to the report, while Saudi Arabia officially called for the cancellation of the plebiscite, behind the scene it supported the Kurds’ plans to split the Arab country and question the territorial integrity of its neighboring states.

The Saudi Royal Court reportedly dispatched a series of emissaries to encourage Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani to go on with his secession project.

Former Saudi military general, Anwar Eshki, was among those figures who explicitly said that working for the creation of a greater Kurdistan would “reduce Iranian, Turkish and Iraqi ambitions.”

“This will carve away one third of the territory of each country in favor of Kurdistan,” he reportedly said.

Eshki further told Russia’s Sputnik news agency that he believes “the Kurds have the right to have a state of their own” and claimed that Iraq had “gone far in marginalizing the Kurds.”

In July 2016, the ex-Saudi general paid a visit to Israel and met with a senior Israeli foreign ministry official and a number of Israeli parliament members.

Israeli daily Haaretz at the time described the visit as “a highly unusual one,” as Eshki could not have traveled to Israel without approval from the Saudi government.

UAE adds voice

A “reliable source” told the MEE that Barzani’s son, Masrour, who heads the Kurdistan Region Security Council, made a secret visit to Abu Dhabi just a month before the September referendum.

### Rights Group:

## Bahraini Prison Water Supply Cut Off for Days

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Guards at Bahrain’s Jaw Prison have cut off water in the notorious penitentiary for days and deprived the inmates of taking shower and using toilets as the ruling Al Khalifah regime presses ahead with its heavy-handed crackdown against opposition figures and pro-democracy activists in the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom.

The Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR) said in a statement on Saturday that the only means of hygiene in the prison was water, which prison officers “intentionally shut off for three consecutive days last week.”

The BFHR statement added that Jaw Prison guards also refused to provide the inmates with adequate food portions.

The rights group also pointed to the practice of intentional negligence when detainees sought medical attention from prison authorities, arguing such conduct

had resulted in the deterioration of the health condition of many political detainees, including Elias Mullah, who is being denied adequate treatment for his colon cancer.

Hundreds of inmates are kept in the Jaw Prison, Bahrain’s central detention facility, for their participation in peaceful pro-democracy rallies.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the country in mid-February 2011.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah dynasty relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

## Iraqi Fighter Jets Kill Dozens Daesh Terrorists Near Syria Border



In this file picture, an Iraqi Air Force F-16 fighter jet is seen on the tarmac at Balad air base in the Salahuddin province, north of the capital Baghdad.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – More than two dozen members of Daesh terrorist group have been killed when Iraqi Air Force fighter jets bombarded their positions in the country’s troubled western province of Anbar near the border with Syria.

The media bureau of the Iraqi Defense Ministry announced in a statement on Sunday that 25 Daesh terrorists were killed as Iraqi military aircraft launched precision strikes in the desert region of the province, English-language online newspaper

Iraqi News reported.

The statement added that 13 vehicles used by the terrorists were also destroyed in the aerial assaults.

On October 10, 17 Daesh terrorists were killed as Iraqi warplanes pounded a terrorist convoy traveling along a road linking the small town of Akashat to the town of al-Qa’im, located nearly 400 kilometers northwest of the capital Baghdad.

Brigadier General Saleh Ali said at the time that the airstrikes also destroyed a number of Daesh arms depots and vehicles in the surrounding areas.

In another development in Iraq, parliament has called for a halt to transfer of arms to Peshmerga by foreign countries after reports that the Kurdish militants had used German weapons to attack government forces in Kirkuk.

Iraqi al-Hadath TV said Sunday that the legislature’s National Se-

curity and Defense Committee had sent an advisory to the country’s defense ministry, calling for measures to stop such shipments.

“The aim of stopping supply of arms to Peshmerga forces is to halt the weapons from being used against the Iraqi armed forces,” Hakem al-Zameli, the head of the committee, said as he asked countries to halt their arms sales to the fighters.

The call came after an Iraqi military statement said Kurdish militants were increasingly using U.S. and German weapons against the army which overtook the control of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk last week.

The statement said German rockets supplied to Peshmerga were used in Altun Kupri and Qush Tapa, causing casualties among government troops.

The clashes are getting fiercer as government forces are closing in on Erbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

### Turkish Justice Minister:

## Procedures for U.S. Extradition of Gulen Complete

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul says his country expects U.S. officials to extradite Pennsylvania-based opposition cleric, Fethullah Gulen, whom the Ankara government accuses of having masterminded the failed July 2016 coup, stressing that all procedures have been completed in this regard.

Gul told reporters in the capital city of Ankara on Sunday that there were no missing documents or procedures left to hinder Gulen’s extradition.

“For both parties, all conditions for an extradition have been fulfilled. We are now waiting for the extradition,” he stated.

The Turkish justice minister further noted that Gulen’s Turkish citizenship would be revoked,

“through a demand from the Interior Ministry and by the decision of the cabinet.”

During the July 15 botched putsch last year, a faction of the Turkish military declared it had seized control of the country and the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was no more in charge. The attempt was, however, suppressed a few hours later.

Not only has Ankara accused Gulen of having orchestrated the failed coup, but the opposition figure is also accused of being behind a long-running campaign to topple the government via infiltrating the country’s institutions, particularly the army, police and the judiciary.

Additionally, the Ankara government has out-

lawed his movement and has branded it as the Fethullah Terrorist Organization (FETO).

Gulen has denounced the “despicable putsch” and reiterated that he had no role in it.

“Accusations against me related to the coup attempt are baseless and politically motivated slanders,” he said.

The 76-year-old cleric has also called on Ankara to end its “witch hunt” of his followers, a move he said was aimed at “weeding out anyone it deems disloyal to President Erdogan and his regime.”

Turkish officials have frequently called on their U.S. counterparts to extradite Gulen, but their demands have not been taken heed of.