

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The Iraqi air force carried out a new strike on a Daesh position inside Syria, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's office said in a statement on Sunday. The strike targeted a position used by the commanders of the group, south of the town of Deshaisha, the statement said. "The position was completely destroyed," it said. The Iraqi air force has already carried out several air strikes against Daesh in Syria since last year, with the approval of the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad and the U.S.-led coalition fighting Daesh.

*A fool's mind is at the mercy of his tongue and a wise man's tongue is under the control of his mind.*

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Yemeni Ballistic Missile Destroys Saudi Positions



Saudi border guards stand inside a building in the al-Khubah area in Jizan Province, near the Yemeni border, on October 3, 2017. (Photo by AFP)

SANAA (Dispatches) – The Yemeni army and allied fighters have hit military positions in Saudi Arabia's Asir region with a ballistic missile and destroyed them, Yemen's al-Masirah television said on Sunday.

A Zalzal 2 missile was fired at the Ain al-Thwareen base in retaliation for Saudi airstrikes, which hit its target and left an unknown number of casualties, it added. Yemeni snipers also killed two

Saudi troops at the Haskul military base in Jizan, while army artillery units pummeled the kingdom's military positions in the region, the report said. Meanwhile, Saudi warplanes bombed parts of Sa'ada,

Hudaydah, and Hajjah provinces in northern Yemen.

In Sa'ada, five members of a family were killed after Saudi aircraft bombed a residence in the Baqim district.

Two more civilians were killed in Saudi air raids in al-Jarahi district in Hudaydah, while there was no immediate word on possible casualties in Hajjah which has been bombed 10 times over the past 24 hours.

The New York Times reported on Thursday that about a dozen commandos with the U.S. Army Special Forces, known as the Green Berets, had been deployed to Saudi Arabia's southern border regions with the aim of countering Yemeni missiles.

The deployment came following reports that Patriot interceptors supplied by the U.S. to Saudi Arabia were increasingly failing against missiles fired by Houthi fighters.

The secretive U.S. mission, according to the report, is aimed at helping Saudi forces locate Yemeni missile launch sites and destroy the missile supplies of the Houthi movement.

## Bomb Attack at Mosque Kills 19 in Afghanistan



Afghan policemen inspect a mosque after a blast in Khost Province, Afghanistan, May 6, 2018.

KABUL (Dispatches) – Nineteen people have been killed and dozens more wounded in a bomb explosion, suspected to be carried out by Taliban militants, at a mosque in Afghanistan's eastern province of Khost, police and officials say, capping a bloody week in the crisis-hit country.

According to Basir Bina, spokesman for the provincial police, the deadly blast occurred on Sunday as people had gathered following afternoon prayers in the mosque, which was also being used as a voter registration center for parliamentary elections slated to be held in October.

The official added that the explosion seemed to be the result of explosives planted in the mosque rather than by terrorists detonating explosive belts.

Bina's speculation was confirmed by provincial police chief Abdul Hanan as he believed that the bomb had been placed in a tenet being used to register voters in the yard of the mosque. "A crowd of people, who had come out of the mosque, had gathered to register" when the blast took place, Hanan added.

Provincial deputy director of public health Gul Mohammad Mangal said at least 33 people sustained injuries in the attack.

No group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it has the hallmark of Taliban, who have been leading a campaign of death and destruction across the crisis-hit country for the past 17 years.

It was the latest attack on election preparations, seen as a key test of the

government's credibility, and comes nearly a week after 25 people, including nine journalists, lost their lives in a pair of back-to-back bomb blasts that hit near government buildings in the capital Kabul.

Last month, some 60 people lost their lives in a voter center in Kabul in a bomb attack claimed by the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group. Taliban have also warned people not to participate in the elections.

Sunday's deadly explosion came as fierce fighting between government troops and Taliban has spread across the war-torn country, with government officials saying that a district in the northern province of Badakhshan that was overrun by Taliban last week had been liberated.

In a separate development, seven people were killed in an explosion when their vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in the northern province of Faryab early on Sunday morning, said Mohammad Karim Yuresh, the provincial police spokesman.

In another development, Afghan forces backed by air strikes have retaken a district in the northern province of Badakhshan that was seized last week by Taliban militants, officials said, as fighting continued across Afghanistan.

Provincial police spokesman Sanaullah Rohani said Kohistan district, which fell to the insurgents on Thursday, was retaken by army and police forces backed by air support on Saturday. Taliban fighters were also pushed back in Teshkan district, where they had taken a number of checkpoints.

## Turkey Says Will Retaliate If U.S. Halts Weapons Sales

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey will retaliate if the United States enacts a proposed law that would halt weapons sales to the country, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Sunday.

Lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives released details on Friday of a \$717 billion annual defense policy bill, including a measure to temporarily halt weapons sales to Turkey.

In an interview with broadcaster CNN Turk, Cavusoglu said the measures in the bill were wrong, illogical and not fitting between the NATO allies.

"If the United States imposes sanctions on us or takes such

a step, Turkey will absolutely retaliate," Cavusoglu said. "What needs to be done is the U.S. needs to let go of this."

The proposed U.S. National Defense Authorization Act, which is several steps from becoming law, would ask the Defense Department to provide Congress with a report on the relationship between the United States and Turkey, and would block the sale of major defense equipment until the report was complete.

Turkey plans to buy more than 100 of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jets, and is also in talks with Washington over the purchase of Patriot missiles.

Turkey signed an agreement with Russia in December to buy S-400 surface-to-air missile batteries as part of Ankara's plans to boost its defense capabilities amid threats from Kurdish militants at home and conflicts across its borders in Syria and Iraq.

The move to buy S-400s, which are incompatible with the NATO systems, has unnerved NATO member countries, which are already wary of Moscow's military presence in the Middle East, prompting NATO officials to warn Turkey of unspecified consequences.

Cavusoglu dismissed the warnings, saying Turkey's

relations and agreements with Russia were not an alternative to its ties with the West and accused the United States of trying to control Turkey's actions.

"Turkey is not a country under your orders, it is an independent country... Speaking to such a country from above, dictating what it can and cannot buy, is not a correct approach and does not fit our alliance," he said.

Relations between Ankara and Washington have been strained over a host of issues in recent months, including U.S. policy in Syria and a number of legal cases against Turkish and U.S. nationals being held in the two countries.

## HRW Censures Detention of 1000s Without Trial in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Press TV) – Human Rights Watch has blasted Saudi Arabia for detaining thousands of people for excessively long periods without trial, saying the kingdom's justice system is deteriorating.

The New York-based rights organization said on Sunday that the detentions raised doubts about Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS)'s modernization plan dubbed Vision 2030.

"If Saudi authorities can hold a detainee for months on end with no charges, it's clear that the Saudi criminal justice system remains broken and unjust, and it only seems to be getting worse," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at the HRW.

"It seems that MBS's 'Vision2030' plan better describes the length of detentions without

charge than an aspirational time horizon for reforms."

The rights group analyzed data from a public online Saudi Interior Ministry database, saying 3,380 people had been held for more than six months without a conviction or their "case file under judicial review," including 2,949 for over a year and 770 for above three years.

One Saudi citizen has been held without a conviction since September 2003 and another "under investigation" since December 2006, the HRW added.

"We've reverted to a Saudi version of Kafka when authorities detain citizens for over a decade without charge because they are 'under investigation,'" Whitson said.

"This effectively means that Saudi authorities can detain

and jail anyone they want by claiming they are investigating them, however endless the investigation," she added.

Whitson also urged Saudi Arabia's attorney general to promptly charge or release all the defendants held arbitrarily.

She further challenged the crown prince's pledge to bring major social and economic changes to Saudi Arabia amid a recent dramatic increase in incarceration without trial.

"Mohammad bin Salman's promises to modernize and strengthen the rule of law mean very little when the authorities can lock away thousands of people for years and throw away the key," she said.

Under the Saudi law, a person may be detained without charge for a maximum of five days,

renewable up to six months by a public prosecution order. After six months, the detainee should "be directly transferred to the competent court, or be released."

Bin Salman was appointed the first in line to the Saudi throne by his father, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, last June. Since then, he has engaged in a string of radical economic and social projects in a bid to portray himself as "reformist."

But those projects have been widely seen more about consolidating his personal power and less about bringing about real change to Saudi Arabia.

Hundreds of influential Saudi businessmen and members of the royal family were rounded up in November 2017 in an alleged "anti-corruption campaign" spearheaded by bin Salman.

## Zionist Fighter Jet Targets Gaza

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – An Israeli fighter jet has targeted a position of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement in the northern part of the besieged Gaza Strip as the Tel Aviv regime presses ahead with its acts of aggression against the impoverished Palestinian coastal sliver.

An unnamed Israeli military spokeswoman said "the aircraft struck a post belonging to Hamas adjacent to the border fence in the northern Gaza Strip last night."

She alleged that the strike was in response to kite-borne fire bombings by Gaza-based resistance fighters.

The Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, said in a statement that a border observation post was hit in the attack, and that nobody was injured.

Local sources said the Zionist regime's F-16 fighter jet bombed a site in Beit Lahia city, causing damage to the site and fear among residents, especially children.

The spokesman for the Gaza Ministry of Health, Ashraf al-Qidra,

said in a statement on April 14 that the Zionist regime's tanks had targeted a group of civilians in al-Awdah refugee camp east of Rafah city, located 30 kilometers south of Gaza City, leaving four Palestinian men dead and several others injured.

He identified three of those killed as Ayed Saleh al-Hamaydeh, Amjad Hosni al-Qatros and Hisham Mohammed Abdelal.

On April 11, the regime's battle tanks targeted several positions of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement in the Gaza Strip.

In another incident, at least six members of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement were killed and six others injured in an explosion that rocked the Gaza Strip.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said that the explosion took place on Saturday in Dayr al-Balah, a city located in the central Gaza Strip.

The injured and the bodies of the deceased were transferred to a hospital following the blast, the ministry added. The reason for the explosion is still unknown.