

Zionist Settler Kills 73-Year-Old Palestinian Woman

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – An elderly Palestinian woman succumbed on Wednesday to injuries she sustained when a Zionist settler rammed his car into her on a road in southern al-Khalil in the occupied West Bank.

According to local sources, a settler driving at high speed ran over 73-year-old Shafiqah Mohamed Abu Aqeel leaving her with serious injuries.

The victim was rushed to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba where she was pronounced dead.

This is the latest in a series of increasing attacks on Palestinians by settlers in the occupied West Bank.

According to Israeli human rights group B’Tselem, 94 violent attacks took place against Palestinian civilians between 21 December 2020 and 13 March 2021 – an unprecedented figure.



A Zionist settler kills 73-year-old Palestinian woman in southern al-Khalil in the occupied West Bank.

A day earlier, Zionist troops shot dead a Palestinian man and injured his wife in the occupied West Bank over an alleged car-ramming attempt against the regime’s troops.

The official Palestinian Wafa

news agency reported that the fatal shooting took place at dawn as the Palestinian man, identified as 42-year-old Osama Sidqi Mansour, and his wife were traveling in their car.

The report, citing a statement released by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, added that Mansour died “after sustaining head wounds from live fire near Bir Nabala ... and his wife suffered bullet wounds to her back.”

Eyewitnesses told Wafa that Zionist troops fired a stun grenade at the car at 3:30 a.m. (0030 GMT). They added that the troops started firing shots as soon as the man pulled over the car for fear of their lives.

Many Palestinians have sustained injuries or lost their lives in similar incidents due to allegations that they attempted stabbing or car-ramming attacks.

Zionist troops have on numerous occasions been caught on camera brutally killing Palestinians, with the videos going viral online and sparking international condemnation.

Turkey Jails 22 Former Soldiers for Life Over 2016 Coup Attempt

ANKARA (Al Jazeera) – A Turkish court on Wednesday sentenced 22 former soldiers to life in jail for their roles in a failed 2016 bid to remove President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In its latest mass trial of suspects whose failure to depose Erdogan was followed by a sweeping political crackdown and arrests, an Ankara court investigated the role of 497 former soldiers, including members of the presidential guard.

The putsch attempt included a raid on Turkey’s main state television broadcaster, whose newscaster was forced to read out a statement from the military leaders.

One of the president’s lawyers provided AFP news agency with a document showing the judge jailing 22 former ranking military personnel for life.

These included former lieutenant colonel Umit Gencer, who was convicted of “violating the constitutional order” by making TRT television read out a “coup declaration”.

The court also handed ex-major Fedakar Akca an aggravated life sentence for leading a team from the regiment to the general staff headquarters on the night, state news agency Anadolu reported.

Former colonel Muhammet Tanju Poshor received his sentence for directing the occupation of the TRT building, it added.

An aggravated life sentence has tougher terms of detention and replaced the death penalty after it was abolished in 2004.

Another ex-major, Osman Koltarla, was in charge of the presidential palace’s security at the time. The court handed him a life sentence.

The verdict was read out in the country’s largest courtroom, which was built to hear coup trials at the Sincan prison complex in Ankara province.

The case into the regiment began in October 2017, with 243 hearings, Anadolu Agency said. The end of the trial marks the end of the cases heard in the capital nearly five years later.

Turkey accuses U.S.-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen of masterminding the coup, a claim he strongly denies.

Tens of thousands of people have been arrested over alleged links to Gulen since 2016, and police raids continue to this day.

More than 100,000 have been sacked or suspended from the public sector over similar allegations.

Aramco’s Disclosures Still Understate Carbon Footprint by 50%: Report

RIYADH (Bloomberg) – Oil companies are under pressure to cut emissions. That process starts with disclosing their entire carbon footprint so that investors and the public can hold them to account.

Earlier this year, a Bloomberg Green analysis showed that the world’s largest oil company, Saudi Aramco, understated its emissions by as much as 50%. The company’s 2019 disclosures only included wholly owned assets that were in Saudi Arabia, leaving out a number of high-emitting assets abroad. In response, the company said it would boost its reporting.

In its latest annual report released in March, Aramco revised its 2019 emissions from 57.9 million metric tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent to 71 million tons. That’s a 23% increase, which the company attributed to adding emissions from three wholly owned assets in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and Germany.

The company reported 67 million tons of emissions last year, slightly lower than 2019 because the pandemic lowered demand for oil and gas. A closer look at the numbers, however, shows that Aramco still has a long way to go in ensuring that its emissions disclosures match those of other oil majors like Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Chevron Corp.

Aramco acknowledged in its 2020 annual report that emissions from two wholly owned assets weren’t included in the tally. “The Fadhili Gas Plant and Jazan Refinery were not fully operational and in various phases of startup and commissioning in 2020,” it said in a statement, adding that it will start counting those facilities in its 2021 report.

The company has also stuck to revealing emissions only from assets over which it has operational control. That means excluding most of its joint ventures both in Saudi Arabia and around the world. These include multiple refineries and chemical complexes that could add as much as 28 million tons to its direct emissions inventory based on Aramco’s ownership share, according to Bloomberg calculations.

Aramco’s disclosures so far have only revealed Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which result from burning fossil fuels for running its operations or from importing electricity to power its buildings. The company does not disclose the Scope 3 emissions created when customers burn its fossil fuels.

The world is unlikely to reach net-zero emissions within decades if its top emitters don’t disclose the true extent of their impact on atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels.

OPCW Likely to Repeat Chemical Accusations Against Syria: Russia

MOSCOW (Press TV) – A senior Russian diplomat has warned that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) would likely repeat its allegations about chemical weapons use in Syria in order to implicate army troops and the Damascus government.

Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyanskiy told a UN Security Council session on Tuesday that even though independent experts corroboratively dismissed the previous report by the OPCW’s Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), the technical secretariat of the global chemical weapons watchdog still persists in turning a blind eye to criticism of the document.

That report claimed Syrian military planes and a helicopter had dropped sarin and chlorine bombs on the town of Lataminah in Syria’s western province of Hama back in March 2017.

“Apparently, the IIT will catch us once again by surprise and will publish yet another ‘pseudo investigation’ and anti-Syria results prior to the grand theatrical finale,” Polyanskiy said.

The Russian diplomat went on to say that his Western counterparts “would rush to interpret that unscrupulous product as alleged proof of chemical warfare use by Damascus” and Syrian government forces.

Polyanskiy sharply criticized the OPCW’s so-called investigators over their attempts to incriminate Syria without providing any conclusive and unequivocal evidence, stating that their methods of besmirching have stayed pretty much the same.

The Russian diplomat also warned against the French-Western draft decision, which falsely alleges Damascus government’s non-compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention and demands suspension of Syria’s rights in the OPCW.

“I urge you to give it a thought. If Syria can no longer take part in the OPCW decision-making, what is the point then for Damascus to keep cooperating with the Organization? What is the ultimate goal, after all? Is it to ‘crush’ Syria as was the case with Iraq ... or is it to make sure that nobody on the Syrian

soil has any chemical weapons?” Polyanskiy questioned.

“If Syria’s opponents attain their goals, we will be living through difficult times, The OPCW and the international community will neither get cooperation in this case nor in any other area,” the Russian diplomat noted.

Meanwhile, Syria’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Bassam Sabbagh called on the international community not to allow the OPCW to become a tool for the United States and its allies to pressure other world states.

Sabbagh also said that the draft resolution, which is to be presented at the 25th meeting of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons later this month, relies on incorrect and unprofessional inferences drawn by the organization’s so-called Investigation and Identification Team.

Russia has repeatedly criticized the OPCW for ignoring the information about toxic provocations in Syria, saying the body is biased against the Damascus government.

Resistance ...

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Faced with layers after layers of sanctions since its inception in 1979, the Islamic Republic has seriously started to shift its economy from dependence on technology imports and construction of industrial facilities by foreign companies to focus on home-grown industries.

Officials usually reiterate the need to establish tech-driven productivity in Iranian enterprises through close collaboration between government, industry, and the academic community in order to generate more small to medium-sized businesses. The aim is to create industry clusters to promote job creation and economic growth.

According to Sattari, “fortunately, many officials have come to the realization that the country cannot be run by selling raw materials and underground resources”.

He believes a knowledge-based economy can change the future of the country, with its massive human resources. Iran has the world’s fourth largest number of engineering graduates, where some 5 million engineers provide it a powerful ground to build a knowledge-based economy.

On Thursday, Sattari and President Hassan Rouhani will oversee the inauguration of five knowledge-based and innovation projects in Tehran and the nearby Alborz and Qazvin provinces, IRNA reported.

The inauguration will include the launch of production lines for three-cylinder engines, train wagons and medical products.

The projects, worth more than 34,620 billion rials (\$822 million), will create jobs for some 7,600 people, the news agency said.

Kazakhstan...

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described Iran as a “key partner” in the region, emphasizing the necessity for the promotion of political and economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

The two officials also discussed the developments concerning the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the peace process in Afghanistan, the Astana Process for Syria peace, and the Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

Zarif is visiting Kazakhstan in a tour of Central Asia that took him earlier to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. He will travel next to Turkmenistan.

Iran...

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producing new drugs in the field of radiopharmacology every year. It has, for instance, made great strides in cooperation with a number of universities towards producing a medicine that could cure prostate cancer.

According to Salehi, more advancements are to be unveiled later in the year such as an ion therapy center in the northern Iranian province of Alborz that could be used for treatment of refractory diseases, especially cancer.

Upon inauguration, the facility would be the sixth of its type across the world and the only center to provide such services in West Asia, the official stated.

The official vowed that the pace of the Islamic Republic’s progress in the field of peaceful nuclear technology will never either slow down or stop.

Salehi said Iran has raised the volume of its enriched uranium stockpile to five tonnes since the 2015 nuclear agreement was reached.

The volume of the uranium enriched at 20-percent-level purity now stands at 57 kilograms, the AEOI head said, announcing that it will reach 120 kilograms in a year.

The nuclear chief added that the average annual production rate for the yellowcake -- a type of uranium condensate powder -- stood at 4 to 5 tonnes before the JCPOA, but it has currently reached 35 tonnes.

Commercial...

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frankly discuss the closed-door meeting in Vienna, acknowledged outside events could affect the negotiations.

“We hope that every action, whether it comes from (nuclear deal) parties or external parties, won’t undermine the dynamic,” he said.

Talks between working groups discussing proposals on American sanctions started Tuesday night and continued Wednesday, even after Iran acknowledged the attack. Participants said the Saviz attack had no immediate effect on the meetings.