

6 Dead, 13 Injured After Falling Into Sewer Room in Egypt

MINYA (Ahran) – Six people died and 13 were injured when they fell into a sewage room in Safaneya village in Upper Egypt, a statement by the Minya governorate said on Saturday. The incident took place when a maintenance company opened the main sewage room to fix the network and one of the workers fell into it. “Villagers gathered to save the worker and some of them went down the sewer room,” the statement added. Ten ambulance vehicles, river rescue, and civil protection teams were dispatched to the site, the statement said, adding that Minya Governor Major General Osama El-Qadi inspected the scene to follow up on the aftermath of the tragedy.

*Thought for Today*  
So long as fortune is favoring you, your defects will remain covered.  
Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 11421 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Sunday, May 9, 2021, Ordibehst 19, 1400, Ramadhan 26, 1442

## UAE Urged to Review Normalization Deal

### Official: Yemen Will Cease Reprisals When Saudi Aggression, Siege Stop



Palestinian protesters hold a portrait of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, captioned with the word traitor, at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East al-Quds on August 14, 2020.

ABU DHABI (Pres TV) – The UAE Resistance Union Against Normalization has called on Emirati authorities, businessmen and independent figures to reconsider recent agreements signed with the Zionist regime and stop any kind of cooperation with the regime.

The group made the plea in a statement released on Saturday amid violent attacks by Zionist troops against Palestinians

at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound and elsewhere in occupied al-Quds, UAE71 news website reported.

It said the current incidents in al-Quds reflect the dangers facing Palestine and the greed of the Zionists, who are pursuing a complete ethnic cleansing by evicting the Palestinian residents of al-Quds to other areas in the West Bank.

“Coinciding with the tense

atmosphere in occupied al-Quds, which is an important turning point in the history of the Palestinian cause and the future of the Arab and Islamic nations, the occupying Zionist regime showed its sinister intentions for the region as it decided to relocate residents of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and forcibly transfer more than 500 Palestinians to camps and confiscate their

homes,” it added.

The UAE Resistance Union Against Normalization also called for the immediate cancellation of the normalization agreement between Abu Dhabi and the occupying regime and efforts aimed at persuading other Arab countries to annul their so-called peace pacts with the occupying entity.

All the steps towards normalization with the Zionist regime in the future is a crime, the group said, warning businessmen and others against establishing secret or public relations with Tel Aviv.

“Al-Quds is the eternal capital of Palestine, which will remain an Arab and Muslim country. All crimes ... against this country target all Arab establishments and their states,” it emphasized.

In mid-September 2020, the UAE, along with Bahrain, signed normalization accords with the occupying regime during an official ceremony hosted by then U.S. president Donald Trump at the White House.

Palestinians condemned the agreements as a treacherous “stab in the back” of their struggle against the occupation.

## Saudi Arabia, Pakistan Vow to Reset Strained Ties

JEDDAH (AFP) – Saudi Arabia and longstanding ally Pakistan signed several agreements Saturday and vowed to reset ties strained by months of disagreement over policy on the Kashmir dispute.

On his seventh visit to the wealthy kingdom since his 2018 election, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was given a warm welcome by Saudi officials in the western coastal city of Jeddah.

He was greeted by Saudi Arabia’s de-facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the airport, before holding talks with Saudi officials at Jeddah’s Al-Salam Palace.

“They affirmed the depth of relations between the two brotherly countries and underscored the importance of expanding and intensifying aspects of bilateral cooperation and coordination,” a Saudi statement said.

Although the kingdom was the first foreign country Khan visited after taking office, Riyadh appeared frustrated with Islamabad last year.

In a sharply worded statement in August, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on the Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene a high-level meeting on

Kashmir.

The call raised eyebrows in Riyadh, where it was widely seen as a warning that Pakistan was preparing to call for a session outside OIC auspices.

While Saudi Arabia has supported Pakistan with billions of dollars in aid and loans in recent years, observers say the kingdom is also keen not to upset India, a key business partner and importer of Saudi oil.

The kingdom recalled \$1 billion of a \$3 billion loan to cash-strapped Pakistan, and an expired multi-billion-dollar oil credit facility to Islamabad has not been

renewed, a diplomatic source told AFP in September.

But Khan’s visit appeared to have restored cooperation between the two countries.

The official Saudi Press Agency said the two sides signed agreements addressing the treatment of criminals, and crime.

They also agreed two memorandums of understanding on combating drug trafficking, and on financing energy, water and infrastructure projects.

The two countries also agreed to establish a Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council (SP-SCC).

## Rights Group: UAE Firm Involved in Migrant Worker Abuse

BERLIN (MEMO) – With the rescheduled Expo 2020 Dubai set to open later this year, concerns have been raised over the abuse of migrant workers by major contractors organizing and running the five months long event.

Some 190 countries are expected to take part in the exhibition which is expected to attract three million visitors from across the world, including German Pavilion.

However concerns have been raised by a leading rights group that monitors the status of migrant workers, over contracts entered into by the German Pavilion with Transguard Group, which boasts being the UAE’s leading business solutions provider. The German Pavilion has signed a framework agreement with Transguard to provide security, cleaning and laundry services during the Dubai Expo.

Last year Transguard was the subject of serious allegations of abuse against migrant workers during the pandemic, said Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, an international NGO that tracks the human rights impacts of more than 10,000 companies across nearly 200 countries.

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre said that it had approached Koelnmesse for a response to the allegations against Transguard. The group claims that the German firm did not provide satisfactory evidence that effective human rights due diligence was taken prior to its contract with Transguard.

In a press release about the contract, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre cited a number of reports exposing alleged abuses carried out by Transguard against migrant workers. The

reports claimed that the UAE firm had withheld passports and wages, was paying below minimum wages, Offered inadequate PPE, imposed forced contract changes and terminations with no notice and deductions from end-of-service benefits. MEMO has contacted Transguard regarding these allegations but received no response by time of publication.

In October 2019, the Resource Centre released a briefing highlighting the risks to migrant workers in the UAE. The briefing calls on clients such as the Dubai Expo and German Pavilion to award contracts to companies with demonstrable commitments to labor rights, and for companies to adopt and enforce robust protections for migrant workers, including against many of the issues reported by Transguard workers.



Fighters of the allied Popular Committees inspect the site of an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition that targeted Yemen’s presidential palace in the capital of Sana’a on December 5, 2018.

SANA’A (Dispatches) – Yemeni forces will stop retaliatory military operations against Saudi targets only when Riyadh and its allies put an end to their devastating war and all-out blockade against the impoverished country, a senior member of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council says.

The remarks by Mohammed al-Bukhaiti came after the U.S. State Department said Friday that Yemeni forces “missed out on a chance to show they are serious about ending the war” by refusing to meet with UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths in Muscat.

G7 foreign ministers also condemned retaliatory attacks by Yemeni Armed Forces on Saudi Arabia and the on-going operation to liberate Yemen’s central city of Ma’rib in a communiqué released after two days of talks in London.

Al-Bukhaiti wrote in a post published on his Twitter page Saturday that the Western powers are turning a blind eye to the Saudi-led aggression, siege and occupation and denounced the G7 move as “international hypocrisy.”

“That is why we are continuing our offensives against Saudi Arabia and for the liberation of Yemeni territories,” Bukhaiti pointed out.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and other regional allies, launched the bloody war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur

Hadi’s government back to power and crushing Ansarullah.

Yemeni armed forces and allied Popular Committees have, however, gone from strength to strength against the Saudi-led invaders, and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in the country.

The Saudi-led military aggression has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions of people. It has also destroyed Yemen’s infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases across the country.

In a latest development, at least seven civilians were killed after warplanes of the Saudi-led military coalition launched an airstrike on a group of people preparing for an anti-Zionist rally in Yemen’s northern province of Ma’rib.

The aerial aggression was carried out against Sahari village in Majzar district, where at least three other civilians were also wounded on Friday, Yemen’s official Saba news agency, citing an unnamed security source, reported.

The Saudi-led fighter jets attacked the village while a group of people was preparing to hold a rally to commemorate International Quds Day.

Every year, the occasion falls on the last Friday of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. It has been so named by the late founder of the Islamic Republic in Iran, Imam Khomeini.

## Turkey: U.S. Laid Ground for Dialogue on F-35 Jets

ANKARA (Sputnik) – A formal letter by the United States to Turkey, notifying that Ankara is excluded from the F-35 deal, provides a basis for further dialogue on the issue, Turkey’s Defense Industry President İsmail Demir says.

“We said that no country can be excluded from the F-35 program unilaterally. The last letter from the U.S. justified us,” Demir was quoted by Hürriyet.

He told the members of the Board of Directors of the Association of Economic Correspondents that the dialogue process would begin “within the framework of this partnership” to ensure Ankara’s rights regarding the F-35s are not lost.

Demir pointed at the fact that the memorandum of understanding on which this partnership is based, states that no partner can say that it removes the other partner.

“According to this text, the removal of any partner is only possible by the unanimous vote of all partners or the subject country withdraws by its will,” he said, adding that was not the case when the U.S. unilaterally excluded Turkey.

Demir recalled that Turkey had

made a contribution to the program, suggesting that appropriate compensation is in order to be negotiated.

Last month, the U.S. officially notified Turkey that the country was excluded from the agreement on the F-35 jet’s production.

Turkey’s state-run Anadolu news agency reported that the U.S. abrogated the F-35 deal with Ankara and concluded a new one with the remaining participants in the program — Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and the UK.

U.S. put off the delivery of the jets to its NATO partner in July 2019 over ‘security concerns’ associated with its purchase of Russia’s S-400 air defense system. Washington feared that Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems could detect vulnerabilities in F-35s and transmit the data to Moscow. Turkey, however, insisted the Russian system poses no threat to the U.S. or NATO security.

Washington has also sanctioned the Presidency of Defense Industries - a Turkish government agency responsible for coordinating the country’s defense sector.