

Deash Terrorists Killed in Airstrikes in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – A total of eight Daesh terrorists were killed when Iraqi warplanes carried out airstrikes on their hideouts in the northern province of Nineveh, the Iraqi military said on Monday. The Iraqi warplanes conducted the airstrikes after a commando force from the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) spotted the hideouts at a rugged area near Hammam al-Alil, some 30 km south of Nineveh's provincial capital Mosul. Yahia Rasoul, spokesperson of the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi forces, said in a statement. The CTS forces seized weapons, ammunition, and explosives at the destroyed sites, the statement said without giving further details about the exact date of the airstrikes.

Do not feel ashamed if the amount of charity is small because to refuse the needy is an act of greater shame.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 11428 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, Ordibehsht 28, 1400, Shawwal 6, 1442

UNICEF: Children Suffering Most in Zionist Bloodshed

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – A senior spokesperson for the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) announced that children are suffering the most amid the recent flare-up of violence by the Zionist regime against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

"It's a terrifying situation," Juliette Touma, UNICEF Chief of Communications for the Middle East and North Africa, told RT.

Touma called on all sides to stop fighting.

"Violence will not bring a solution. Violence will only bring more violence. It means children will suffer first, and they will suffer the most," she said.

The spokesperson noted that more than 30 schools were damaged in Gaza and three in the occupied territories. UNICEF is working on the ground to deliver medical supplies in the Palestinian Arab enclave, as many locals have found shelter in UN-run educational facilities.

"Right now, when it comes to Gaza – no place is safe for children,"



UNICEF says children are suffering the most amid the recent flare-up of violence by the Zionist regime against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Touma added, stressing that minors "need to be protected at all times."

Rights Group Slams Zionist Censorship

A Palestinian platform designed to protect online content shared by Palestinians has criticized the Zionist

regime's attempt to "impose its hegemony on social media platforms" and censor content about the regime's ethnic cleansing of al-Quds's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood as well as its war crimes committed in the Gaza Strip.

A statement from Sada Social followed a meeting last week between

the regime's war minister, Benny Gantz, and executives from Facebook and TikTok where he asked them to remove anti-Zionist content. Sada pointed out that social media users advocating for Palestine and its people have since reported many violations of their digital rights.

"This includes the closure of accounts on Twitter or Instagram," explained director Eyad Rifai, "or the blocking of features on Instagram, such as streaming live videos, or restricting access to content related to Sheikh Jarrah, Gaza or Jerusalem (al-Quds)."

According to Sada Social, the most prominent violation was the closure of Quds News Network's TikTok account on Saturday.

The group called on social media administrators to stand "at the same distance" from all users without discrimination or prejudice to one party at the expense of the other. It also appealed to civil society organizations to shoulder their responsibilities for defending Palestinians' digital rights.

Iraqi Gov't Urged to Cut Ties With Arab States Over Normalization

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi MP Hassan Salem has lent his voice to a growing chorus of calls for the government in Baghdad to cut ties with the Persian Gulf States that have signed normalization deals with the Zionist regime, namely the UAE and Bahrain. He added Saudi Arabia into the mix as well, as it is known to have unofficial links with the Zionist regime.

"The Iraqi government should sever ties with the countries that have normalized relations with the Zionist enti-

ty and in shame and betrayal of the Palestinian cause through their support for the Zionist entity in its bombardment of defenseless civilians and children and the massacres committed in Gaza," said Salem. "It is not worthy of Iraq that has always been supportive of the Palestinian people to have relations with the traitors who sold and conspired against Palestine and its people."

The MP stressed the need for the Iraqi government to move beyond false political courtes-

sies with these "treacherous regimes" that were the right arm of the Zionist entity in killing people in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and, most recently, Palestine. "They support the terrorist Zionist entity which has committed massacres of children, the elderly and women."

On Saturday, chanting crowds gathered in several Iraqi cities, some burning Zionist and American flags, in protest against the regime's bombardment of the Gaza

Strip.

Thousands of demonstrators shouted anti-Zionist slogans, held signs saying "Death to Israel, death to America" and waved Palestinian flags. The rallies, called by powerful cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and other paramilitary leaders, were held as the Zionist regime launched more airstrikes on Gaza and Palestinian fighters fired rockets on Tel Aviv and other cities in the worst escalation in the region since 2014.

Turkey Becomes Dumping Ground for Illegal Plastic Waste

ANKARA (Middle East Eye) – The UK and Germany have continued to illegally export non-recyclable plastic waste to Turkey, where it is burnt at landfill sites and pollutes the environment, a Greenpeace investigation revealed on Monday.

The report indicated that Turkey received almost 40 percent of the UK's plastic waste exports (209,642 tonnes) in 2020, nearly half of which was mixed plastic that is mostly non-recyclable.

The report found that EU member states also exported 20 times more plastic waste to Turkey in 2020 compared with 2016 - about 447,000 tonnes - making Turkey the largest export country for plastic waste from the EU.

EU and UK regulations currently ban exports of plastic waste unless it is delivered to another country for recycling. However, Turkey has a very low official recovery rate for municipal waste, which stands at 12 percent in 2018, the lowest of any OECD member country. Germany, in particular, was responsible for

most rubbish, sending 136,000 tonnes of waste to Turkey in the same year, increasing its exports sevenfold since 2016.

Local media have also reported that 400 containers of plastic waste from Germany are currently standing in Turkish ports and cannot be further processed because the Turkish company which imported them, 2B Plant, later didn't take the ownership of the deliveries.

Greenpeace said the Turkish company's business partner, through intermediaries, is also said to be ALBA, one of the largest German waste disposal companies.

"As this new evidence shows, plastic waste coming from Europe to Turkey is an environmental threat, not an economic opportunity," said Nihan Demiz Atas, a Turkey-based Greenpeace project leader in a press release.

"Uncontrolled imports of plastic waste do nothing but increase the problems existing in Turkey's own recycling system. Around 241 truckloads of plastic waste come to Turkey every day from across Europe and it overwhelms

us."

The Greenpeace Research team visited 10 wild landfills in the Adana's Cilicia region in southern Turkey in March 2021 and came across mountains of plastic waste, mostly from the UK and Germany.

The team reported that the Cilician coastline suffers more plastic pollution than any other stretch of the Mediterranean. The River Seyhan, which runs through the centre of Adana, and the River Ceyhan, which runs to the southeast, are collectively responsible for 9 percent of the plastic pollution entering the Mediterranean each year - second only to the Nile, according to the Greenpeace report.

Large amounts of plastic waste were found at 10 locations on the outskirts of the city, which were illegally dumped in fields, near rivers, railroad tracks and on the roadside, and were often on fire or had already been burned. Among other things, a Covid-19 rapid test was found which proves that part of the waste was only exported in the period this year or last year.

U.S., Kurdish Allies Reportedly Smuggle Out Syrian Oil, Wheat



U.S. forces and their militant allies have reportedly smuggled another 38 trucks and tankers' worth of wheat and oil out of Syria via the al-Walid border crossing.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – U.S. occupation forces and their Kurdish militant allies have smuggled another 38 trucks and tankers' worth of wheat and oil out of Syria via the al-Walid border crossing, the Syrian Arab News Agency reports, citing local sources.

The agency's sources said the supplies were taken from the U.S. and Kurdish-occupied Jazira region of al-Hasakah governorate. The so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) militants are alleged to have accompanied the convoy on its way toward the al-Walid crossing, which the Syrian government considers illegal because it's outside Damascus's control.

The smuggling activity follows a separate report on Saturday that U.S. troops had brought 10 tractor trailers carrying Hummers from Iraq into Syria, driving them toward the town of Rmelan in al-Hasakah.

Syria has previously reported on the back-and-forth flow of "thousands" of military vehicles, trucks carrying military supplies and equipment, refrigerator trucks, and vehicles containing building materials into Syria via Iraq, while smuggling hundreds of trucks and tankers' worth of stolen Syrian oil and, more recently – wheat, out.

Last week, SANA reported that two massive convoys containing a total of 88 vehicles filled with oil and wheat left Syria for Iraq from two separate directions, one of them containing wheat from the strategic Tal Alou silos, and the other convoy oil tankers, covered trucks and refrigerator vehicles from the al-Yarubiya countryside.

The Biden administration has left in place its predecessor's policy of robbing Syria of its natural resources and wheat stocks. The U.S. and its Kurdish allies enjoy control over as much as 90 percent of Syria's oil wealth, and their refusal to turn these areas over to Damascus has ensured that the once energy self-sufficient nation has been forced to turn to Iran for fuel imports. On top of that, Iranian tanker ships carrying Syria-bound oil have reportedly faced "dozens" of attacks by the Zionist regime costing "billions of dollars."

The wheat smuggling has also led Syria's other ally – Russia – to step up wheat supplies to the Arab Republic. Last year, Moscow donated 100,000 tons of wheat to Syria in the form of humanitarian aid. Before the 2011 war began, Syria enjoyed self-sufficiency in wheat production.

Syrian, Iranian, and Russian diplomats at the United Nations have repeatedly blasted Washington over its weaponization of food and medical supplies in Syria, and suggested that the humanitarian situation is even worse in areas of the country outside the Syrian government's control. On top of the food and oil smuggling, Syria faces crippling U.S. and European Union sanctions, with these factors together hindering reconstruction.

In March, Syrian oil minister Bassam Touma accused the U.S. and its allies of "targeting the Syrian oil wealth... just like pirates," and suggested that the situation faced by Damascus has not been seen by any other nation, "in terms of preventing us from tapping our wealth and at the same time stopping basic commodities from reaching our country."

Saudi Arabia Eases Travel Ban for Vaccinated Citizens

RIYADH (AFP) – Vaccinated Saudis were allowed to leave the kingdom for the first time in more than a year on Monday as the country eased a ban on international travel aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus and its new variants.

For the past 14 months, Saudi citizens have mostly been banned from travelling abroad out of concerns that international travel could fuel the outbreak of the virus within the country of more than 30 million people. The ban, in place since March 2020, has affected Saudi students who were studying abroad, among others.

The easing of rules prompted a rush of holidaymakers to exit the kingdom, following the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

Hundreds of cars crowded roads linking Saudi Arabia and Bahrain on Monday.

The King Fahd Causeway, a 25-kilometer (16-mile) series of bridges closed in March last year, was packed with traffic as Saudi Arabia reopened its land, sea and

air borders.

"It's a beautiful feeling after such a long absence from Bahrain," said Mohammed, a Saudi travelling to the island nation.

The opening of borders will give a welcome boost to Bahrain's tourism industry, which is heavily reliant on high-rollers from its neighbor, the Arab world's biggest economy.

For decades, the causeway linking Bahrain to Saudi Arabia has served as a key artery, bringing visitors who pack out Bahrain's shopping malls and hotels. But since coronavirus slammed on the brakes, traffic was reduced to a trickle.

Travelers also flocked to Saudi Arabia's airports on Monday for flights abroad.

"We have been confined within Saudi for around a year and a half, so we can hardly believe the ban is lifted and we can see the world," said Nawaf al-Askar, a Saudi heading from Riyadh to Bosnia and Herzegovina with his family.