

UN: Palestinians Detained in Saudi Arabia Arbitrarily, Should Be Released

RIYADH (Middle East Eye) – The ailing former head of Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in Saudi Arabia and his son have been arbitrarily detained in the kingdom for two and a half years and should be released immediately, a UN body has ruled.

Dr Mohammed al-Khoudary and his son, Hani, were among more than 60 Palestinians and Jordanians arrested in Saudi Arabia in 2019 as the kingdom’s relations with the Zionist regime warmed.

The majority of the detainees are believed to be Hamas members who had resided in Saudi Arabia for decades, targeted by Saudi authorities for their resistance to the Zionist occupation.

According to their lawyer, the Khoudarys have been coercively interrogated, held in solitary confinement and denied access to a lawyer and to their family.

Mohammed al-Khoudary, 83, was being treated for prostate cancer at the time of his arrest in April



Palestinians take part in a protest in solidarity with prisoners in Saudi jails, in front of the Red Cross office, in Gaza city on 16 October 2019.

2019 and has been denied medical treatment while in prison, his lawyer said.

After mass trials, a Saudi court in August issued various sentences to the detainees - who include businesspeople, academics and students - over their alleged support

for the Hamas movement.

Khoudary was given a 15-year prison sentence while his son received three years.

On Thursday, however, the UN’s Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said it had determined that the father and son are being

arbitrarily detained and that their fundamental human rights were violated, and called for their immediate release.

According to a 16-page ruling, the Saudi government failed to establish a legal basis for the Khoudarys’ arrest and violated their right to a fair trial.

The UN Group also said the two men’s detention suggested they were “targeted on the basis of their status as Palestinian nationals resident in Saudi Arabia” and that they were “deprived of their liberty” because they are Palestinians.

Over its 29-year history, the group concluded, it has found Saudi Arabia in violation of international human rights obligations in numerous cases, including the Khoudarys.

“Under certain circumstances, widespread or systematic imprisonment or other severe deprivation of liberty in violation of the rules of international law may constitute crimes against humanity,” the group said.

Turkey Says Dismantles Mossad Spy Cell, Arrests 15

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish intelligence services have dismantled a Mossad network that was gathering information on Palestinians living in the country for the Zionist regime, Turkish media reported.

Fifteen people were arrested earlier this month, following a year-long counterintelligence operation, and they are said to have been providing Mossad with details of local and foreign students. “After the information was shared with police, counterterrorism forces caught the 15 spies in a secret operation carried out on Oct. 7 in four provinces,” the Daily Sabah reported.

“The members of the espionage network were instructed to gather information on Palestinians attending Turkish universities and to find out what opportunities they are provided by the government and municipalities.”

They also identified university students who may be starting a career in the defense industry.

Agents were paid varying amounts depending on the importance of the information they were providing to Mossad, the paper explained. They travelled abroad, to Europe and Africa, to meet with Mossad agents and transfer information deemed vital for the spy

network. They also used encryption software to transfer documents over the web.

According to Turkish intelligence, the agents met face to face with Zionist Mossad officials abroad, not in the occupied territories, in order not to be exposed.

During the meetings, information and documents deemed significant for the Zionist regime were relayed to field officers, known as “case officers” in intelligence terminology.

According to the Daily Sabah, Turkey also uncovered how the operatives were paid, which included cryptocurrency payments

and money transfers from jewelry and currency exchange stores.

The Mossad-linked spy network is said to have used the Protonmail application, which allows the encryption of Microsoft Word files, to relay intelligence.

Another program taken advantage of was SafeUM, which generates fake phone numbers that cell members used to communicate with Mossad administrators undetected from applications like WhatsApp.

The members of the espionage network were presented in court and then transferred to the Maltepe prison in Istanbul.

Zionist Regime to Approve 3,000 New Settlement Units

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is set to advance the construction of more than 3,000 settlement units in the occupied West Bank including East Al-Quds, local media reported.

The weekly schedule published by the Civil Administration’s planning committee showed that it intends to approve the construction of the new settlement units in Revava, Kedumim, Elon Moreh, Karnei Shomron and settler communities in Gush Etzion and the Al-Khalil Hills.

The document also showed that the committee intends to approve 1,300 Palestinian homes in the West Bank’s Area C.

The approval comes despite Zionist prime minister Naftali Bennett’s re-

marks about facing “American pressures” to stop settlement construction in the West Bank.

Earlier on Wednesday, Army Radio quoted Bennett as saying during a cabinet meeting that he was surprised by the American pressure against construction in the occupied West Bank.

Meanwhile, Zionist settlers attacked Palestinian-owned farming lands in the central part of the occupied West Bank, and uprooted more than 300 olive trees at the peak of olive harvest season.

Palestinian farmers from the village of al-Mazraa al-Garbieh, which lies north of the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, were shocked on Thursday by the sight of their olive groves vandalized on lands close to the illegal

Zionist settlement of Kerem Reim.

Saadeh Zaquout, the head of the village’s council, told official Palestinian Authority news agency Wafa that Zionist troops and settlers installed an iron gate and placed cement blocks on the road to prevent Palestinian farmers from accessing their lands and harvesting olive trees.

Olives are a key source of income for Palestinian farmers.

The olive harvest season, which runs between October and November, is a lifeline for 80,000 to 100,000 Palestinian families in the West Bank.

According to United Nations data, almost half of Palestinian agricultural lands are planted with an estimated 10 million olive trees in the West Bank

and besieged Gaza Strip.

Settlers time and again target the crops, setting fire to trees and poisoning plants.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that more than 9,300 olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers have been damaged, cut or uprooted by Zionist settlers between August 2020 and August 2021.

Rights group B’Tselem has, meanwhile, reported that 1,500 trees have been uprooted or damaged since the beginning of harvest season alone.

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to the south of Lebanon, everyone tried to put out the fire of sedition and division.”

Addressing the worshippers during the main sermon, the Friday prayer leader also highlighted the primacy of unity among Muslims.

“The issue of unity among the Muslim Ummah is neither a superficial issue, a method nor a tactic, but rather, it is a strategy, basis and foundation,” Mohammad Javad Haj Ali Akbari said.

He also referred to the United States’ crimes against the Iranian nation in the last 20 months, including the intensifying of its sanctions on Iran, even though the country was struggling to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

“Nevertheless, by the grace of God and the wise leadership of the Leader of the Revolution, our nation emerged proud with decency and patience in the face of the enemies, troubles and tactless acts,” Haj Ali Akbari added.

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according to its website.

Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary for “discovery of fascinating molecules with therapeutic applications” was another laureate.

Yahya Tayalati won the Mustafa Prize for “observation of the light by light scattering and the search for magnetic monopoles.”

The winners have been granted cash prizes amounting to \$1 million.

The Mustafa Prize seeks to encourage education and research and play a pioneering role in developing regional relations between science and technology institutions working in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries.

It was launched in 2013, with high-profile universities and academic centers of the OIC member states defining its policies.

The scientific event is held biennially during the Islamic Unity Week, which celebrates the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Sorena Sattari, head of the Mustafa Prize policy-making council, delivered a speech to the event, saying, “I am very glad that this international prize provides a network of scientists of Islamic countries to solve the problems according to science and technology.”

Hassan Zohour, head of the scientific committee of Mustafa Prize, also gave a speech on the details of the 2021 Mustafa Prize.

Back in 2019, Ugur Sahin, the CEO of BioNTech, received the award for his seminal work on individualized cancer immunotherapies, in particular for the development and clinical testing of mRNA-based vaccines that are tailored to each patient’s mutation profile.

Sahin’s BioNTech later developed the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. To develop the vaccine, Sahin and his team used the same study that earned him the Mustafa Prize: vaccines based on messenger-RNA or mRNA.

Jackie Yi-Ru Ying, the founding executive director of the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology in Singapore, is another prominent recipient of the Mustafa Prize.

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and Beijing over several issues, including Chinese Taipei.

China has called on the United States to strictly abide by the “One China” principle when handling issues related to Chinese Taipei, stressing that Beijing would not compromise on its core interests.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a daily news briefing on Friday, after U.S. President Joe Biden said Washington would come to Taipei’s aid if it were to come under attack from China, claiming it had a commitment to defend the self-ruled island.

Taipei “is an inalienable part of China’s territory,” and the Taipei “issue is purely China’s internal affair, and no external interference is allowed,” Wang said, adding that no one should underestimate the Chinese people’s determination to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Wang also urged the U.S. “not to send the wrong signals” to secessionist factions in the self-governed island, and to avoid “seriously harming Sino-U.S. ties and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.”

When asked at a CNN town hall if the United States would come to the defense of Chinese Taipei, Biden had said, “Yes, we have a commitment to do that.”

Subsequently, China’s Ambassador to the United Nations Zhang Jun urged the international community to call on the U.S. to stop dragging Taipei into a war.

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the significance of the formation of an all-inclusive government in Afghanistan.

He, meantime, pointed to the agreements reached between Iran and Indonesia in New York during his recent meeting with the Indonesian for-

eign minister, and said Tehran is making an effort to expand and strengthen relations with Jakarta.

Retno Marsudi, for her part, emphasized the need looking after Afghan refugees as a human duty that calls for international attention.

The top Indonesian diplomat also invited her Iranian counterpart to visit Jakarta.

She welcomed the idea of deepening all-out ties between Iran and Indonesia, saying the Indonesian government has issued necessary instructions to state organizations in this regard so that defined bilateral projects are finalized and put into practice at a proper pace.

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“Today, women’s leadership is a cause. Tomorrow, it must be the norm,” the UN chief told the meeting.

He called women peace builders, change makers and human rights leaders, and described their work mediating and negotiating with armed groups; implementing peace agreements; pushing for peaceful transitions; and fighting for women’s rights and social cohesion throughout their communities.

Yet, he pointed out, “women remain on the periphery of formal peace processes, and they’re largely excluded from rooms where decisions are made.”

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Gallup said the low rate of approval during Rouhani’s presidency was due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Iran and his government’s poor response to and mismanagement of the pandemic.

The findings of the survey, conducted between August 24 and 31, came as Gallup said the U.S. and Western media had labeled Raisi as a hard-line conservative cleric, contrasting with Rouhani who was said to be a moderate figure.

“Despite his characterization as a moderate, Rouhani never received majority-level job approval in any of Gallup’s readings during his presidency,” the poll said.

Moreover, the results of the Gallup poll showed that 59% of Iranians have confidence in their national government, declining from 52% in July 2019 to 47% in August 2020 and falling further to 41% in November.

The 41% registered during Rouhani’s tenure was the lowest level of confidence recorded in Gallup’s trend.

“Raisi articulated a plan to tackle the pandemic, focusing on increasing COVID-19 vaccination throughout the country,” Gallup said.

“Prior to Raisi’s election in June, about 5% of the Iranian population was at least partly vaccinated; since then, the percentage of vaccinated Iranians has risen to nearly 50%. The increase in availability of vaccines from non-Western sources and the new administration’s emphasis on taking action on the pandemic likely contributed to the spike in Iranians’ confidence in their national government, which jumped to 62% shortly after Raisi entered office,” it added.

Raisi, the eighth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, won almost 62 percent of the votes in the June 18 presidential election and succeed Rouhani, who served two four-year terms in office.

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“Israeli regime, in flagrant violation of international law and in total disregard for all relevant United Nations resolutions, continues to violate the fundamental rights and dignity of the Palestinian people and other Arabs living under its occupation. As a result, Palestinians are deprived of their lands and properties, forcibly evicted and subjected to violence, terror, and intimidation. Meanwhile, any right of the Palestinians to self-determination totally has been negated,” the Iranian envoy said.

“Worse still, under the current challenging circumstances and as the international community focuses on mitigating the severe effects and consequences of COVID-19, the Israeli regime continues to exploit this period to accelerate its illegal settlement activities as well as annexation schemes and further entrench its military occupation. Simultaneously, the inhumane and suffocating blockade on the Gaza Strip continues to deepen the severity of the humanitarian crisis and inflict misery on the Palestinian civilian population there,” the diplomat added.

“At the regional level, the continued occupation of territories of the occupied Syrian Golan, as well as parts of Lebanon and frequent encroachments against the countries of the region, have seriously endangered peace and security in the region and beyond. Given Israel’s threats to regional and international peace and security, as well as its unlawful and brutal measures against Palestinians, the international community, the United Nations and the Security Council must be fully vigilant towards all of the destabilizing policies and illegal practices of this regime in the volatile region of the Middle East along with their ramifications for international peace and security, and thus hold it accountable for all such inhumane policies and unlawful practices,” Iran’s envoy stated.

Points ... (Continued From Page One)

Household accounts relate that the virtuous monotheist lady, Amena bint Wahb (SA) saw strange signs during her pregnancy, and when her son was born, a voice echoed: “The Best of creation is born. Name him Muhammad (SAWA).”

The Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt or immediate blood relatives, whom God has made immune from any blemish and uncleanness (Holy Qur’an 33:33), say: “When the newborn was brought to Abdul Muttalib (AS) he took him in his arms and said: “I praise and thank Allah Who blessed me with such a handsome (grand)son who surpasses all children.”

Then the monotheist grandfather composed a poem praising the newborn.

The Prophet’s 6th Infallible Heir, Imam Ja’far as-Sadeq (AS) has said that on the birth of his illustrious ancestor, Fatema bint Asad (SA) – the mother of Imam Ali (AS) – rushed to her husband Abu Taleb (AS) and gave the good news of the birth of a radiant nephew to him. She also described strange things about the wonderful birth. Abu Taleb (AS) said: “After thirty years a son will be born to you too who will be like this newborn in every aspect, except prophethood.”

Abu Taleb (AS) performed the “Aqiqah” or hair-removing ceremony of his nephew on the seventh day of birth and invited the entire Hashemite clan to the feast, saying it is the “Walima” (banquet) of Ahmad. Asked why was Muhammad being called “Ahmad”? He said: “Those in the heaven praise him as such.”

Those pseudo Muslims, wrongly accusing the Prophet’s Guardian and Uncle, who till the last years of his life fiercely protected his nephew from the plots of the pagan Arabs, of lacking faith in Islam, should read the holy Qur’an, where in Ayah 6 of Surah Saff, the Almighty Allah has quoted the tidings of Prophet Jesus (AS) to his followers, some six centuries before the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA):

“O Children of Israel! Indeed I am the Prophet of Allah to you, to confirm what is before me of the Torah, and to give the tidings of the Prophet to come after me, whose name is Ahmad.”

It is interesting to note that the Gospel of St. John, despite the tampering it has gone through, still preserves the words of Jesus of the coming of the Last and Greatest Prophet – as “Comforter” in the English translation, and “Paraclete” in its Greek translation, which is the translation of the original Hebrew/Aramaic word “Hmda” or the Praiseworthy, and which in Arabic means “Ahmad”.

This is further proof of the universal mission of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) to all mankind, the reliability of the narrations of his monotheist household, and the logic behind celebrations of his blessed birth.

It is outside the scope of this brief newspaper column to mention the prophecies of Prophet Moses and Prophet Isaiah about the Last Prophet or the predictions in the sacred texts of the Zoroastrians and the Hindus of Islam’s worldwide triumph.