

RIYAH (MEMO) – Former Saudi espionage official, Saad Al-Jabri, says the kingdom's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS) is holding his children hostage in the Persian Gulf state. Aljabri re-iterated his previous claims that the Saudi royal was plotting to send a hitman to kill him, adding: "Bin Salman has taken my children, Sarah and Omar, hostage as part of his plot." In an interview with CBS' 60 Minutes, Aljabri pointed out that the squad was sent at the time the late dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed.

## Yemen: UNSC Statement Ignores Saudi War Crimes

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The United Nations Security Council's pro-Riyadh statement ignores the Saudi war crimes against the Yemeni people, the Yemeni Foreign Ministry says.

In a statement on Wednesday, members of the UN Security Council called for an urgent ceasefire across Yemen and an end to the Yemeni Army's advances toward the last stronghold of Saudi-backed mercenaries in the strategic city of Ma'rib.

The National Salvation Government's Foreign Ministry said in a statement the Security Council did not show any positive development in its policies towards the grievances of the Yemeni people, who have been facing an illegal and unjustified war for nearly seven years.

"It is unfortunate that the Security Council continues to condemn the legitimate right of the Yemeni people to defend themselves and the sovereignty of their country, while ignoring the war crimes" committed by the Saudi-led war coalition against Yemeni civilians, read the statement.

The Foreign Ministry of the National Salvation Government, which runs the Yemeni government from the capital Sana'a, further said the coalition's war crimes include air raids on Yemeni territory on a daily basis, in addition to a tight siege against the Yemeni people, which has deprived them of their most



Smoke billows following a Saudi airstrike in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, on November 27, 2020.

basic needs and legitimate rights.

Since 2015, Saudi Arabia has led a war coalition against Yemen to overthrow the popular Ansarullah movement and reinstall the ousted, Riyadh-friendly regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in Sana'a.

The prolonged war, accompanied by an economic siege, has failed to reach its goals, killing hundreds of thousands of Yemeni people while throwing the poorest Middle Eastern country into what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

In a latest development, at least one person has been killed and three others wounded when Saudi fighter jets

struck pharmaceutical warehouses in Yemen's capital province of Sana'a.

They bombed the facilities in Saawan neighborhood on Thursday, Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported, citing local sources.

Saudi military spokesman Turki al-Maliki confirmed the airstrikes, alleging that the kingdom had exercised restraint in recent months in support of UN efforts and initiatives to find a comprehensive and lasting political solution to the Yemen crisis.

The spokesman for Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement, Mohammed Abdul-Salam, denounced the aggres-

sion.

"The bombardment of pharmaceutical warehouses and other civilian facilities in Sana'a come in light of the recent statement by the UN Security Council, which is completely biased in favor of the coalition of aggression. Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia is forging ahead with its aggression and siege instead of stopping them and calculating the upshot of its foolishness," he wrote in a post published on his Twitter page.

Meanwhile, the Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC) says member countries of the Saudi-led coalition waging war against Yemen are looting the impoverished country's oil reserves, urging the UN to take action to alleviate the sufferings of Yemeni people.

"We are suffering from a systematic looting operation, carried out by the aggression [coalition's] mercenaries and run by the member countries of the [Saudi-led] coalition, and which targets the wealth of the Yemeni people," Essam Al-Mutawakel, a spokesman for the Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC), told al-Masirah on Wednesday.

He noted that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a member of the coalition, has brought boats and is present in Yemen's ports to steal the Yemeni oil.

Al-Mutawakel added that the Saudi-led aggressors have stolen "more than 165 million dollars" a month from Yemen's oil sale revenues, while Yemen is grappling with an economic crisis.

## Iraqi Party Claims Foreign-Linked Vote Irregularities



Iraqi supporters of the Hashd al-Sha'abi alliance, wave national flags as they take part in a protest denouncing the results of Iraq's parliamentary elections and calling for a new vote in Baghdad on October 19, 2021.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraq's Fatah (Conquest) Alliance has blasted foreign-linked irregularities and fraudulence in the country's parliamentary elections, warning that the results have to be annulled and new elections held if demands of the public are not met.

Mohammad al-Rabiee, Fatah member a spokesperson for the al-Sadiqoun parliamentary bloc affiliated with Iraq's Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq movement, made the criticism in an interview with the Lebanese al-Mayadeen television channel on Thursday.

Rabiee said the Fatah Alliance had before the October 10 vote alerted the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and the presidency to the existence of a "large gap" in the voting mechanism, and the panel had promised to work on resolving it.

"The suspicious events on the polling day and the obvious confusion following the poor performance of the IHEC revealed the existence of a massive manipulation of the election outcome, which led to the emergence of illogical results incompatible with the popular suffrage," he told al-Mayadeen.

Rabiee rebuked the West and its regional allies for instigating chaos in Iraq, saying the aim of their plot against the recent elections was to eliminate the Iraqi resistance groups from their country's political scene.

"The ominous triad of the United

States, Britain and Israel, which does not want stability or security for Iraq, worked through Emirati funds and groups to remove the forces that rejected Western hegemony and stood as an impenetrable fortress in the face of normalization deal, occupation and disintegration," the Iraqi official underlined.

Pointing to Western attempts to "break Iraq's back" by weakening and dismantling the anti-terror Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), known as Hashd al-Sha'abi, Rabiee said the "dangerous manipulation" of votes which aimed to prevent certain candidates from reaching Parliament prompted the Iraqi masses to come out in the capital Baghdad and a number of provinces to express their anger over the results.

The Iraqi capital and a number of major cities have been tense over the past few days as several political factions and their supporters in the Arab country have rejected the preliminary results as "fraudulent."

Tuesday was the last day to file complaints and appeals against the election results, with the IHEC having reportedly received about 1,400 appeals.

Two separate statements issued on Wednesday by Hadi al-Ameri, the leader of Fatah, and Qais al-Khazali, leader of Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, said they would be waiting for the results of appeals submitted to the commission.

## Palestinians End Hunger Strike, Declare Victory

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement has declared "victory" over the Zionist regime following a mass hunger strike by its prisoners.

The inmates took the action in refusal of the punitive measures imposed on them after the escape of six Palestinians from a maximum security Zionist detention center last month.

"The prisoners decided to suspend the hunger strike after they scored victory against the administration of the occupation prison authorities," Islamic Jihad official Tareq Ezaddin

said on Friday.

He added that the details of the agreement between the prisoners and the occupying regime's prison service will be announced later.

"The victory is a turning point in the confrontation with the [Zionist] jailers," Ezaddin said.

Some 250 Islamic Jihad inmates went on hunger strike nine days ago in protest of restrictions imposed on them.

In the predawn hours of September 6, Zakaria Zubeidi, a former commander of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade in Jenin and five Islamic Jihad members tunneled their way out

through their cell's drainage system and escaped from Gilboa prison.

The regime's prison officials were alerted by farmers who noticed them running through fields.

Four of the Islamic Jihad members were serving life sentences, while the fifth had been held without charge for two years under a so-called administrative detention order, according to Israeli media.

On Thursday, the Islamic Jihad threatened to expand the hunger strike to include all its 400 prisoners if the demands of the inmates are not met.

The prisoners demanded that the re-

gime's prison service rescind its decision to transfer them to other prisons and place some of them in solitary confinement following the prison break.

The Zionist regime's prison authorities keep Palestinian inmates under deplorable conditions lacking proper hygienic standards. The prisoners have also been subjected to systematic torture, harassment and repression.

There are reportedly more than 7,000 Palestinians held at the regime's jails. Hundreds of the inmates have been apparently incarcerated under the practice of administrative detention.

## Putin: Hezbollah Significant Force in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Russian President Vladimir Putin says Hezbollah resistance movement plays a crucial role in Lebanon's political sphere.

At the conclusion of a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club held in the Russian resort city of Sochi, the Russian head of state said on Thursday, "Hezbollah is a significant political force in Lebanon."

Putin noted that Russia "practically communicates with all political forces in Lebanon and will continue to do so."

"In Russia, they are completely concerned with finding common ground for an agreement between the Lebanese parties without a fight," he said, adding, "We are working with all the Lebanese to prevent bloodshed."

Meanwhile, a top official said Hezbollah has never been a tool used against the Lebanese people, stressing that the resistance group keeps the specter of war away from the Mediterranean country.

"The capabilities of the resistance and the strength of the resistance have always been, since its inception, devoted to protecting Lebanon and defending the Lebanese, and it has never been a tool to intimidate the Lebanese or sabotage their ... life or civil peace," said Vice President of the Executive Council of Hezbollah Sheikh Ali Damoush.

Sheikh Damoush said Hezbollah's capabilities created deterrence against the enemy and prevented the invasion of Lebanon by Takfiri terrorists.

Hezbollah's strength "protects [Lebanon's] stability and civil peace, prevents internal fighting and keeps the specter of civil war away from Lebanon," he said.

The Hezbollah official dismissed allegations that the resistance movement is a source of anxiety and fear, saying that the group is rather a source of reassurance and stability as well as a source of resolving the country's problems.

Hezbollah "contributes to alleviating the repercussions of crises that people are going through on the social, economic and living levels," he said.

He further emphasized that Hezbollah does not want to be dragged into a civil war and will do everything it can to prevent a "dirty" war of such kind.

"Had it not been for the people of patience and insight, Lebanon today would have been inflamed and ablaze with the fire of haters and civil warlords," he remarked.

The remarks came in light of a killing spree targeting Hezbollah supporters in Beirut last Thursday that killed at least seven people and injured dozens more.

## Geagea Summoned

Lebanon's military court has summoned Samir Geagea, the leader of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) political party, over the killing of seven Shia Muslims in Beirut during last week's violence.

Lebanese media outlets on Thursday reported that the court summoned Geagea to hear his testimony on the October 14 violence in light of the confessions of those detained over the clashes.

At least seven people were killed and 60 others injured in an attack on October 14, during which supporters of Hezbollah resistance movement were shot from rooftops while they were gathering to peacefully protest against a judge investigating last year's Beirut Port explosion as they accused him of bias.

In a statement, Hezbollah and its ally Amal Movement said armed groups affiliated with the LF party, a former militia group during the 1975-1990 civil war, fired at the protesters from rooftops, aiming at their heads, in an attempt to drag Lebanon into new sectarian strife.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Monday said that "the real program for the Lebanese Forces is civil war".

## Documents: Saudi Arabia Pressing Scientists Over UN Climate Report

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Leaked documents have showed that Saudi Arabia and a number of other countries are trying to exert pressure on scientists to water down a key United Nations report on how to tackle climate change.

The leaked documents, seen by the BBC, contain 32,000 submissions made by governments, companies and other interested parties that have been sent to a team of scientists compiling the report.

The submissions are a standard part of the process of making the "assessment reports", which are produced every six to seven years by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The BBC said the submissions "are overwhelmingly designed to be constructive", but contain comments lobbying for issues important to officials' respective countries.

The leak revealed that Saudi Arabia, one of the top oil producers in the world, and Australia, one of the world's largest coal exporters, are two of the most influential nations asking the UN to downplay the need to move rapidly away from fossil fuels.

According to the BBC, an ad-

viser to the Saudi oil ministry demands "phrases like 'the need for urgent and accelerated mitigation actions at all scales...' should be eliminated from the report".

Riyadh also asks the UN scientists to delete their conclusion that "the focus of decarbonization efforts in the energy systems sector needs to be on rapidly shifting to zero-carbon sources and actively phasing out fossil fuels".

The leak comes days before the COP26 climate summit, which is scheduled for November and that aims to secure significant commitments to slow down climate change and keep global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The IPCC noted that comments from governments are central to its scientific review process, stressing that its authors have no obligation to incorporate them into the reports.

"Our processes are designed to guard against lobbying - from all quarters," the IPCC told the BBC.

"The review process is [and always has been] absolutely fundamental to the IPCC's work and is a major source of the strength and credibility of our reports," it added.