

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops stole artifacts from the town of Sebastia, north-west of Nablus, after Palestinians discovered ancient burials, the Wafa news agency reported. The Mayor of Sebastia, Mohammad Azem, told Wafa that the occupying regime's troops stole the artifacts after surrounding the archaeological site in the village and interrogating staff from the municipality and the Ministry of Tourism for hours. The occupation forces detained the staff while they were working at the archaeological site after they were informed of the discovery by Palestinian construction workers who were in the middle of building a new road.

Who are you to abuse the world when it has openly declared its mortality and mortality of everything connected with it, when it has given everyone of its inhabitants to understand that all of them are to face death?

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Zionist Troops Continue Carnage Against Palestinians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops shot dead a Palestinian man in the West Bank city of Al-Khalil on Monday, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Nassim Abu Fouada, 26, succumbed to his wounds after being shot in the head in the Israeli-occupied city, the ministry said.

Palestinian media said Abu Fouada was in a vehicle in central Al-Khalil near the Ibrahim Mosque when soldiers at a military checkpoint opened fire on him.

Over the past year, the occupying regime's violence against Palestinians in the West Bank has been getting more deadly and frequent, prompting a rise in armed Palestinian resistance.

In recent days, tensions have been at a high, after a Zionist raid on Jenin refugee camp on Thursday killed nine Palestinians. The next day, a Palestinian killed seven Zionists in a settlement in occupied East Al-Quds.

The latest killing comes as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken began a Middle East trip in Cairo on Monday, which also took him to occupied Palestine.

"We've seen horrific terrorist attacks in the last couple of days that



The situation in occupied East Al-Quds remains volatile after a number of retaliatory shooting operations took the lives of at least nine Zionists and wounded several others.

we condemn and deplore," he told Saudi state broadcaster Al Arabiya on Monday. "The most important thing in the near term is to try to get some calm."

Blinken landed in Tel Aviv to meet Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday afternoon, ahead of meeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday.

At least 32 Palestinians have been killed by Zionist troops since the beginning of January.

Last year, more Palestinians were

killed by Zionist troops in the West Bank and East Al-Quds than in any single calendar year since the Second Intifada.

At least 220 people died in the regime's attacks across the occupied territories in 2022, including 48 children.

Of the total death toll, 167 were from the West Bank and East Al-Quds, and 53 were from the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also called on CIA director

William Burns to pressure the Zionist regime to stop its "unilateral" measures against the Palestinians.

"It is important for an urgent intervention to pressure the new Zionist cabinet headed by Benjamin Netanyahu to stop its unilateral measures and abide by the signed agreements," Abbas was quoted by the official news agency Wafa as saying.

"It is important to restore the political horizon based on international resolutions, to achieve security and stability for everyone in the region," Abbas told Burns during their meeting held at the presidential headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Meanwhile, the military wing of Hamas, al-Qassam Brigades, announced on Sunday that its fighters had downed and seized a Zionist army drone over the besieged Gaza Strip. The drone was brought down during the regime's air strikes on the besieged Gaza Strip.

"Important, sensitive information has been taken from the drone," said the brigades, which posted several pictures of the drone on social media. The occupation authorities, they added, have largely stayed quiet about the disappearance of the UAV.

## UK Faces Lawsuit Over Saudi Arms Sales Contributing to Yemen War



A young Yemeni boy injured by Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen

LONDON (Middle East Eye) – The UK government is set to face legal action over its arms sales to Saudi Arabia during the ongoing war in Yemen.

The Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) is taking the government to the High Court, arguing that UK arms have contributed to breaching international humanitarian law and one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters.

According to Oxfam, the UK has licensed at least £7.9bn (\$9.6bn) in arms to Saudi Arabia across 547 licences since 2015, including Tornado and Typhoon aircraft and bombs.

CAAT says the true value of arms sales could be more than £23bn (around \$28bn) when additional "open licenses" are taken into account.

A previous court challenge by CAAT in 2019 forced the UK government to suspend arms sales, but after an internal review sales resumed in 2021 on the basis that the breaches of humanitarian law were "isolated incidents".

"This is a government that cares more about profit than war crimes and the deaths of civilians," said Emily Apple, media coordinator at CAAT.

"Its argument that these are 'isolated incidents' is total nonsense and deeply offensive to all the Yemeni people who've had their lives

destroyed by UK weapons."

The judicial review is expected to last until 2 February.

Saudi Arabia launched a devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with its Arab allies and with arms and logistical support from the United States and other Western states.

The objective was to reinstall the Riyadh-friendly regime of former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and crush Yemen's Ansarullah popular resistance movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of a functional government in Yemen.

While the Saudi-led coalition has failed to meet any of its objectives, the war has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The war and Saudi Arabia's economic siege on Yemen are thought to have contributed to more than 300,000 deaths over eight years, according to UN estimates.

At least 8,983 civilians were killed in air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition, including attacks that targeted hospitals, weddings and funerals.

Middle East Eye reported on Monday that the UK government refused to release information about weapons sales to Saudi Arabia during the Yemen war, citing the expense of culling through the documents.

## Report: Persian Gulf Regimes Own \$1.2bn in UK Property Through Tax Havens

LONDON (The Guardian) – The royal families of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar, as well as Jordan, own more than £1 billion (\$1.2bn) worth of property in Britain through offshore tax havens such as Jersey and the British Virgin Islands.

The combined portfolio has nearly 200 properties, including hotels, mansions and country estates, belonging to at least one member of the ruling families of the four Persian Gulf states and the Hashemite Kingdom. Holding properties through offshore companies is legal in Britain, but a law was passed last year demanding that individuals should

declare ownership through such structures with Companies House by tomorrow, 31 January 2023.

Persian Gulf royals who hold assets through offshore entities include Sheikh Mansour, the owner of Manchester City Football Club, members of the Saudi ruling family, and the ruling Al Thani family in Qatar. Billions of pounds' worth of assets are held by these three ruling families in the UK, which dwarfs the amount they own through offshore companies.

A £150m (\$185m) Surrey estate owned by Mansour's wife, Sheikha Manal Bint Mohammed al-Maktoum, is one of the most

expensive properties purchased through an offshore company. Mansour himself is said to own 17 other land titles through Jersey, including a London apartment and land connected to urban developments in Manchester.

Among the assets held by the Saudis via offshore entities is The Holme, a lakeside manor in the middle of London's Regent's Park, built in 1818. The property is registered to a Guernsey-based entity whose beneficial owners include Abdullah bin Khalid al-Saud, the kingdom's representative at the UN. The brother of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Turki bin Salman, owns

18 properties in London purchased through a company in the British Virgin Islands.

Last year, Jordan's King Abdullah was among 336 high-level politicians and public officials named in the latest financial scandal involving secret offshore dealings and the use of tax havens, to amass huge personal wealth.

The 59-year-old is alleged to have secretly spent more than \$100 million in purchasing some of the most sought after real-estate in the UK and U.S. as Jordan continues to struggle with skyrocketing unemployment and austerity measures.

## Hezbollah: Presidential Election Key to Resolution of Lebanon's Crises

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – A high-ranking official from the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has called for the immediate election of a new president to replace Michel Aoun, whose term expired last October, describing the development as the key to resolution of the country's years-long crises.

"We should elect a president as soon as possible, as all solutions are tied to an agreement on the next head of state. The election will result in the appointment of a new government, and development of financial and social plans aimed at economic salvation of the country. Lebanon would then start to make progress," Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem said at a ceremony in the Lebanese capital city of Beirut on Monday.

He added that there would be many "twists and turns" before the formation of a new government, especially "as U.S. sanctions are seeking to target the country's vital sectors one after another, create a sense of despair among the nation, and paint a pretty grim picture that there is no future for Lebanon."

The senior Hezbollah official also pointed to divisions among Lebanese political factions to elect a successor to Aoun, saying, "We believe that electing a new president is the key to [settlement of] the country's ongoing crises. Each party and faction has listed the characteristics of its prospective candidate. It is time to move ahead and elect a new head of state than to wrangle over a nominee."

Sheikh Qassem noted that the parliament convened on January 19 for the 11th time to elect a new president, but failed again to come up with a consensus candidate.

"Remaining stuck in the current situation and persistence on uncompromising viewpoints will complicate election of a new president. Solution to the existing power vacuum lies in sincere dialog," he said.

Sheikh Qassem underscored that Hezbollah, along with the Amal movement and other allies, has suggested an effective mechanism in order to elect a new president because it has always been honest with Lebanese people, and has sought national convergence.

"Those who wish to fulfill their desires should know that the next president will not be elected in such a manner," he stated.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has called for the election of "a brave [Lebanese] president who is willing to sacrifice."

"We want the election of a president, the formation of a government and the salvation of the country," the Hezbollah leader said.

"We want a brave president who is willing to sacrifice and does not care about the threats of the Americans. There are such examples and we must look for a government of this type and ministers of this type," the Hezbollah chief underlined.

Lebanon's presidency has seen stalemate several times since the 1975-1990 civil war. The country has also had only a caretaker government since last May.

The Arab country has been mired in an economic crisis that the World Bank has dubbed one of the worst in recent history, which comes amid crippling sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its allies.

## UK Teaches Jordan to Spy on Citizens

AMMAN (MEMO) – Britain's intelligence, security and cyber agency, GCHQ, has offered covert training to Jordan's security services in techniques known as "digital media exploitation". The techniques may be used to spy on citizens and clamp down on dissent.

According to an investigative report by The Cradle, citing leaked documents, GCHQ provided a Foreign Office-funded training course between June 2019 and March 2020 to Jordan's Special Branch of the Public Security Directorate.

While the purpose of the course was stated to provide assistance to "evidence gathering agencies in Jordan to effectively extract data from digital devices," namely to improve investigative and counter terrorism capabilities, the method adopted has raised concerns that it may be used to "destroy, deny, degrade and disrupt" dissidents through discrediting them or planting "negative information" about them online.

British firm Torchlight is staffed by former military and intelligence personnel and has been contracted previously by governments in the region to provide digital forensic training. It was named as having provided the course to Jordan's security services.

The report noted that journalists are also routinely subject to intimidation, arrest and prosecution by the Jordanian authorities for even mild criticism when reporting or posting on social media. Criticism of the monarch and government officials and institutions are deemed to be a serious crime in the Hashemite Kingdom.

Last year it was revealed that online hackers affiliated with the Jordanian government had hacked human rights activists' smartphones using the notorious Zionist spyware Pegasus during protests in the country since 2019 spurred on by teachers who went on strike demanding higher wages.