

WEST BANK (Al Jazeera) – The Palestinian foreign ministry has announced it has formally asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the killing of veteran Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. On May 11, Abu Akleh, 51, was covering a military raid by Zionist troops near the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank when she was shot dead by the occupying regime's troops. "We have documented [the crime] and submitted a file about it to the ICC prosecutor alongside other Israeli violations," Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki told Anadolu Agency.

He who is deserted by friends and relatives will often find help and sympathy from strangers.

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Yemeni Forces Shoot Down Saudi Spy Drone

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The Saudi-led military coalition has flown an unmanned aerial vehicle over the Yemeni capital, triggering army forces and fighters from allied Popular Committees to intercept and shoot down the aircraft.

The spokesman for Yemeni Armed Forces, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, said in a post published on his Twitter page that Yemeni air defense forces targeted the armed CH-4 reconnaissance drone with a surface-to-air missile as it was carrying out hostilities over Sana'a in the late hours of Monday.

The Saudi attempt came despite a UN-sponsored nationwide truce that took effect at the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan,

The CH-4 drone has a 3,500- to 5,000-kilometer range and a 30- to 40-hour endurance. It is also capable of carrying six missiles and a payload of up to 250 to 345 kilograms.

The unmanned aerial vehicle can fire air-to-ground missile from an altitude of 5,000 meters, enabling it to stay outside the effective range of most anti-aircraft systems.

Al-Masirah television network, citing a spokesman for Yemen's



Yemenis searching the wreckage of a Saudi CH-4 spy drone after it was shot down by Yemeni air defense forces and their allies in the skies over Yemen's capital city of Sana'a on May 23, 2022.

Ministry of Public Health and Population, reported that three people lost their lives and as many sustained injuries at the site where the Saudi-led aircraft had gone down.

The development came only two days after Yemeni troops and allied Popular Committees fighters shot down a Turkish-built spy drone belonging to the Saudi-led military coalition over the country's northwestern province of Hajjah.

Yemeni defense forces managed to "shoot down a Turkish-made Karayel reconnaissance drone"

owned and operated by the Saudi-led coalition "while it was carrying out hostile missions in the airspace of the Hayran district," Saree said on his Twitter account at the time.

He noted that the spy drone had been downed with a "homegrown surface-to-air missile," which has not been unveiled yet, Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported then.

Muhammed Abdul-Salam, spokesman for Yemen's popular Ansarullah resistance movement, said, "The flight of reconnaissance

unmanned aerial vehicles in the airspace of Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, is an act of aggression, and validates the aggressors' disrespect for the UN-sponsored truce."

He said the United Nations and world agencies would have adopted a different stance in case Yemeni army forces and fighters from Popular Committees had flown their drones in the skies of the Saudi-led coalition member states. "We hold aggressors responsible for the consequences of such provocative and aggressive actions," Abdul-Salam pointed out.

Saudi Arabia launched the devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with its Arab allies and with arms and logistics support from the U.S. and other Western states.

The objective was to reinstall the Riyadh-friendly regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and crush the Ansarullah 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.

'Total Absence of Plan' UK MPs Slam Afghan Pullout as 'Disaster, Betrayal'



British citizens and dual nationals residing in Afghanistan board a military plane for evacuation from Kabul airport, Afghanistan August 16, 2021.

LONDON (Arab News) – Britain's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan was a "disaster and betrayal" hampered by a lack of leadership from senior politicians and civil servants, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee said in a report released Tuesday.

The committee criticized the Foreign Office for the "total absence" of a plan for evacuating Afghans who supported the UK mission despite knowing for 18 months that such an evacuation might be necessary.

This was compounded by the fact that there seemed to be no clear lines of leadership among political leaders, with decisions made on the basis of "untraceable and unaccountable political interventions," the committee said in its report.

"The fact that the Foreign Office's senior leaders were on holiday when Kabul fell marks a fundamental lack of seriousness, grip or leadership at a time of national emergency," the committee said.

The British government faced blistering criticism for following the decision of its ally, the U.S., to hastily abandon the South Asian country last August.

"The UK government failed adequately to shape or respond to Washington's decision to withdraw, to predict the speed of the Taliban's

takeover, or to plan and prepare for the evacuation of our Afghan partners," the report notes.

Hundreds of Afghans eligible for relocation were left behind after the UK pulled out, which drew widespread criticism and condemnation.

The report was based on an eight-month inquiry during which the committee heard testimony from 20 witnesses and reviewed written evidence from 36 organizations.

The cross-party committee started working on the report in September and inquired the Foreign Office, whose answers were "intentionally evasive and often deliberately misleading."

However, two whistle-blowers provided crucial testimony to the committee.

"Those who lead the Foreign Office should be ashamed that civil servants of great integrity felt compelled to risk their careers to bring the situation to light," the report states.

The inquiry also highlighted a lack of arrangements and "unaccountable political interventions" referring to the evacuation by a British ex-serviceman of around 150 dogs and cats from his animal charity on a privately chartered plane, which the MPs said absorbed "significant" resources during the chaotic period.

U.S. Base Targeted in Baghdad Terrorists Kill Dozen Civilians in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Daesh terrorists killed 12 civilians and wounded at least six in two separate attacks in Iraq, apparently taking advantage of a sandstorm that sharply reduced visibility across the country, security officials said Tuesday.

The attacks occurred on Monday evening in Kirkuk and Diyala provinces, where farmers came under fire while harvesting their crops.

The Iraqi Security Media Cell said in a statement that six civilians were killed in the attack in the village of Sami Asi, south of the city of Kirkuk. The Kurdish news network Rudaw said after the killings, an Iraqi federal police force that arrived on the scene was ambushed and three police-

men were killed.

Earlier, Daesh launched an attack in Diyala's town of Gulala, killing six residents, two Iraqi security officials said.

The terrorist group claimed responsibility late Monday for the Kirkuk attack, claiming it killed five Shi'as in their agricultural fields in al-Rashad area in Kirkuk and set fire to five vehicles. It said its militants clashed with a supporting unit from the federal police and destroyed one of their vehicles.

Daesh overran large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014. The group was defeated in 2017 after a years-long war spearheaded by local forces and assistance from Iran and Russia. But its remnants continue to carry out hit-and-run at-

tacks through sleeper cells across both countries.

In another development, an armed unmanned aerial vehicle struck a major base at Baghdad International Airport, where American military forces and trainers are stationed, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The Arabic-language al-Sumaria television network, citing a security source, reported that the attack targeted the Victory Base, and took place in the early hours of Tuesday.

Sabereen News, a Telegram news channel associated with Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units —better known by the Arabic name Hashd al-Sha'abi — reported that sirens went off, warning

of an attack on the U.S.-run base. Ambulance sirens could also be heard.

Russia's Arabic-language RT Arabic television news network reported that counter-rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) systems operated by the U.S.-led coalition forces could intercept and shoot down the drone.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, which is the latest in a series of assaults that have targeted U.S. occupation forces over the past few months.

Anti-American sentiments have been on the rise in Iraq. Iraqi lawmakers have approved a bill that requires the government to end the presence of all foreign military forces led by the U.S. in the country.

Two Killed, 120 Injured in Abu Dhabi Gas Explosion

ABU DHABI (AP) – Two people were killed and 120 injured in a gas cylinder explosion in a restaurant in the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi, police said.

Initial reports "showed that 64 people sustained minor injuries, 56 others were moderately wounded, and two people died," police tweeted.

The blast on Monday set off a fire that damaged the facades of six buildings and a number of stores before being brought under control, they added.

Four of the damaged buildings were evacuated, with efforts underway to find their residents temporary housing "until the buildings are completely secured," the police said.

Pictures released by Abu Dha-

bi police showed first responders tending to a person on a gurney, and debris and broken glass strewn across the pavement.

A witness told The National newspaper that he heard two explosions around lunchtime.

"The first sound was small and people started calling the fire and police," said the man, who was not identified.

"Then soon, there was a big blast. It was a really big sound. The windows shook and in some offices, the windows shattered."

The authorities gave no indication of foul play.

However, the UAE has been on heightened alert since a retaliatory drone and missile attack from Yemen killed three oil workers in Abu Dhabi on January 17.

Erdogan Says Turkey to Launch New Offensive in Syria

ANKARA (Xinhua) – Turkey is preparing for a new military incursion into northern Syria "to establish a 30-km deep safe zone" along its southern border, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says.

"As soon as the Turkish armed forces complete its intelligence and security preparations, these operations will begin," Erdogan said at a press conference after the cabinet meeting.

The operation will target the regions in northern Syria where the Turkish military does not have control and are "centers of attacks to our country and our safe zones," he said.

Turkey's forces and Syria's so-called Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) members often exchange fire in the region and the clashes have accelerated since early this year.

The Turkish National Security Council will discuss the issue on Thursday, he said.

Ankara-backed militants were deployed to northeastern Syria in October 2019 after Turkish military forces launched a long-threatened cross-border invasion in a declared attempt to push fighters of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) away from border areas.

Ankara views the U.S.-backed YPG as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984.

The Kurdish-led administration in northeastern Syria says the Turkish offensive has killed hundreds of civilians, including dozens of children since it started.

Syria has strongly condemned the Turkish military's ongoing operations in the northern part of the country, stressing that the offensives are in blatant violation of the Arab nation's sovereignty and independence.

Syria says the operations are in line with the hostile policies that Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) has been practicing against Syria ever since the latter was embroiled in foreign-sponsored militancy more than a decade ago, Syria's official news agency SANA reported.

Syria has called on the UN Secretary General and the Security Council to adopt a clear stance vis-à-vis the Ankara government's aggressive policies, as Security Council's resolutions reiterate respect for Syria's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Damascus says it reserves the right, in accordance with its constitution, principles of the international law and the UN Charter provisions, to respond to Turkey's aggression, put an end to the practice, and hold Ankara legally, politically and financially accountable to pay reparations for the damage it has incurred.