

Report: Suicide Cases Rise Sharply Among Zionist Military Forces



Zionist troops in the occupied West Bank on March 29, 2022

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has recorded a sharp increase in suicide cases among its military personnel, raising serious concerns in the occupying regime’s military and espionage apparatus.

The regime’s public broadcaster Kan reported that eleven Zionist troopers have committed suicide since the beginning of the current

year, a marked increase compared to the same period last year.

The regime’s army recorded a total of 11 suicides for the whole of last year and nine cases in 2020.

The report added that military officials have convened emergency meetings with psychiatrists and consultants in order to investigate the causes of the alarming in-

crease in suicides.

Official data from the Information and Research Center of the Knesset, the regime’s parliament, show that the regime registers 500 suicides each year, 100 of which are among young people in the 15-24 age bracket.

According to the Palestine Today news agency, suicide is still the

leading cause of death within the ranks of the Zionist army in non-combat situations, and the number has soared dramatically in recent years.

Last month, the Hebrew-language daily newspaper Israel Hayom reported that a senior Zionist espionage officer had taken his own life by jumping from a high building. Initial investigations concluded that the unnamed lieutenant decided to end his life due to personal problems.

The newspaper said there existed undeniable links between the lieutenant’s suicide and what drove another officer to commit suicide inside a military prison last June.

The officer was found in serious condition in his cell at the newly-opened Neve Tzedek prison on the night of May 16, 2021 and later pronounced dead in what military officials said was a suspected suicide.

Though an autopsy was performed, no official cause of death was determined.

The officer was described by people who worked with him as a computer prodigy.

1,200-Year-Old Mosque Unearthed in Occupied Territories

RAHAT (AFP) – Archaeologists on Wednesday unveiled a rare ancient mosque in the Israeli-occupied territories’ south.

The remains of the mosque, believed to be more than 1,200 years old, were discovered during works to build a new neighborhood in the Bedouin city of Rahat, the Zionist regime’s antiquities authority said in a statement.

The mosque located in the Negev desert contains “a square room and a wall facing

the direction of Mecca”, with a half-circle niche in that wall pointing to the south, the antiquities authority said.

“These unique architectural features show that the building was used as a mosque,” the authority said, noting it probably hosted a few dozen worshippers at a time.

A short distance from the mosque, a “luxurious estate building” was also discovered, with remains of tableware and glass artefacts pointing to the wealth of its residents, the an-

tiquities authority said.

Three years ago, the authority unearthed another mosque nearby from the same era of the seventh to eighth century AD, calling the two Islamic places of worship “among the earliest known worldwide”.

The mosques, estate and other homes found nearby illuminate “the historical process that took place in the northern Negev with the introduction of a new religion — the religion of Islam, and a new rulership and culture in the region,” the

antiquities authority said.

“These were gradually established, inheriting the earlier Byzantine government and Christian religion that held sway over the land for hundreds of years.”

The Muslim conquest of the region occurred in the first half of the seventh century.

The antiquities authority said the mosques found in Rahat would be preserved in their current locations, whether as historic monuments or as active places of prayer.

Wildfire in Southwest Turkey Largely Under Control

ANKARA (Reuters) – A wildfire in southwestern Turkey was largely contained on Wednesday, Forestry Minister Vahit Kirisci said, after scenes of burning woodland reminded Turks of blazes last year that devastated tens of thousands of hectares across the region.

Aerial footage from forestry authorities earlier showed smoke billowing as fire spread through a forest in the sparsely populated area, fanned by strong winds.

Firefighters battled to extinguish the wildfire from air and land, officials said. The cause of the fire, which began around 8 pm (1700 GMT) on Tuesday, remained unclear.

Kirisci said higher humidity and relatively lower temperatures were positive factors compared to the dry and extremely hot weather during last year’s fires.

“Our hope is that this issue is concluded today. We can cautiously say that the fire has largely been brought under control,” he said, speaking in the area of Bordubet where the fire broke out near the

Aegean coastal resort of Marmaris.

He said windy conditions meant the fire could still spread elsewhere.

Broadcaster CNN Turk said 30 houses were evacuated in the area overnight as a precaution.

Nearly 1,500 personnel, more than 360 vehicles, 20 helicopters and 14 planes were involved in tackling the blaze, officials said.

Last summer’s blazes, most of which were also near Marmaris, were the most intense in Turkey on record, a European Union atmosphere monitor said last year, adding that the Mediterranean had become a wildfire hotspot.

President Tayyip Erdogan’s government was criticized as being unprepared to fight the fires last year. They responded by saying the fires were the worst in Turkey’s history.

Human-induced climate change is making heatwaves more likely and more severe, scientists say.

Iran... (Continued From Page One)

earthquake and subsequent tremors in Afghanistan’s remote northeast killed at least 4,500 people.

In most places in the world, an earthquake of that magnitude wouldn’t inflict such extensive devastation, said Robert Sanders, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. But a quake’s death toll more often comes down to geography, building quality and population density.

“Because of the mountainous area, there are rockslides and landslides that we won’t know about until later reporting. Older buildings are likely to crumble and fail,” he said. “Due to how condensed the area is in that part of the world, we’ve seen in the past similar earthquakes deal significant damage.”

The Taliban are still trying to reconstitute government ministries abandoned by staff loyal to its previous Western-backed government, and it was not clear how officials arrived at the casualty tolls reported by Bakhtar.

In Kabul, Prime Minister Muhammad Hassan Akhund convened an emergency meeting at the presidential palace to coordinate the relief effort, and Bilal Karimi, a deputy spokesman for the Taliban government, wrote on Twitter to urge aid agencies to send teams to the area.

The “response is on its way,” the UN resident coordinator in Afghanistan, Ramiz Alakbarov, wrote on Twitter.

That may prove difficult given the situation Afghanistan finds itself in today. After the Taliban swept across the country in 2021, the U.S. military and its allies fell back to Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport and later withdrew completely. Many international humanitarian organizations followed suit because of concerns about security and the Taliban’s poor human rights record.

In the time since, the Taliban have worked with Qatar, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates on restarting airport operations in Kabul and across the country — but nearly all international carriers still avoid the country, and reluctance on the part of aid organizations to put any money in the Taliban’s coffers could make it difficult to fly in supplies and equipment.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society, however, sent some 4,000 blankets, 800 tents and 800 kitchen kits to the affected area, according to Bakhtar’s director-general, Abdul Wahid Rayan.

Iran’s embassy in Kabul said the Islamic Republic has dispatched two cargo planes carrying first aid supplies to the quake-hit country.

Relief and rescue teams of Iran’s Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and medical and volunteer squads have been put on standby to be deployed to Afghanistan, it added.

The Italian medical aid group Emergency, which still operates in Afghanistan, said it sent seven ambulances and staff to the areas closest to the quake zone.

“The fear is that the victims will increase further, also because many people could be trapped under collapsed buildings,” said Stefano Sozza, country director for Emergency in Afghanistan. “This latest tragedy cannot but worsen further the condition of fragility and economic and social difficulties which Afghanistan has experienced for months.”

Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said his nation would provide help.

Some remote areas of Pakistan saw reports of damage to homes near the Afghan border, but it wasn’t immediately clear if that was due to rain or the earthquake, said Taimoor Khan, a disaster management spokesperson in the area.

The European seismological agency, EMSC, said the earthquake’s tremors were felt over 500 kilometers (310 miles) by 119 million people across Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Mountainous Afghanistan and the larger region of South Asia along the Hindu Kush mountains have long been vulnerable to devastating earthquakes.

UK ... (Continued From Page One)

were offset by clothing costs rising by less than this time last year, and a drop in often fluctuating computer games prices.”

The increase was in line with analysts’ expectations and signals no quick end to the cost-of-living squeeze facing millions in Britain. The Bank of England says inflation could hit 11% in October when a cap on domestic energy bills is raised.

Jack Leslie, senior economist at economic inequality think-tank the Resolution Foundation, said inflation would likely climb further in June because of “the big spike in petrol prices over the past month.”

“With the economic outlook so unclear, no-one one knows how high inflation could go, and how long it will continue for — making fiscal and monetary policy judgements particularly tough,” he said.

Inflation is soaring worldwide: The U.S. reported a rate of 8.6% in May and the 19 countries that use the euro recorded 8.1% inflation the same month.

Millions of people in Britain, like those across Europe, are seeing their cost of living soar, in part driven by Russia’s war in Ukraine that is squeezing supplies of energy and food staples such as wheat.

The pressure is driving British workers to seek substantial pay increases, a move the Conservative government argues could spark a wage-price spiral, driving inflation even higher.

Tens of thousands of railway workers are walking off the job for three days this week in the country’s biggest transit strike for three decades, and a potential precursor to a summer of labor discontent.

Syria Capital Airport to Resume Flights After Zionist Strike

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) – The international airport in Syria’s capital will resume flights after nearly two weeks following an airstrike by the Zionist regime that caused serious damage to the facility, Syrian TV reported Wednesday.

The outlet quoted the Transportation Ministry as saying that flights will resume at Damascus International Airport on Thursday adding that all companies “should schedule their arriving and departing flights as of this date.”

The June 10 Zionist airstrike caused damage to infrastructure and runways and rendered the main runway unserviceable.

Work has been ongoing since then to repair the damage and flights have been mostly diverted to the international airport in the northern city of Aleppo, Syria’s largest city.

The facility is located just south of the capital.

Kuwait’s Crown Prince Dissolves Parliament, Calls Elections

KUWAIT (AP) – Kuwait’s crown prince on Wednesday dissolved parliament and called for early elections, a move to ease government gridlock that has bred popular opposition and paralyzed the tiny country for months.

In his televised national address, the 81-year-old Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber said that while the ruling family respected Kuwait’s constitution that grants the country’s rowdy parliament more power than elsewhere in the autocratic region of Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, popular dissat-

isfaction over the deepening dysfunction compelled the emir to intervene.

“Our goal with this constitutional solution is the firm and sincere desire for the people themselves to have the final say in the process of correcting the political course anew by choosing who represents the right choice,” said Sheikh Meshal, who assumed most of the emir’s responsibilities last year.

A date for legislative elections was not immediately announced.

The country’s cabinet resigned over two

months ago over disputes with parliament, resulting in a prolonged paralysis. Over a dozen Kuwaiti lawmakers began a sit-in last week inside the parliamentary chamber to press for a new government.

The wrangling has left many Kuwaitis deeply disenchanted with their 50-member elected legislature. Parliament is empowered to pass and block laws, question ministers and submit no-confidence votes against senior officials. However, final authority rests with the ruling emir.