

ANKARA (Xinhua) – Turkey has so far detected 11 monkeypox cases in total, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Tuesday. “It is not a disease to be feared for Turkey ... Monkeypox is a disease that is transmitted by staying in the same environment for a longer period of time,” Koca was quoted by semi-official Anadolu Agency as saying. Monkeypox, which was usually known to be endemic in parts of Africa, is spreading in several European and North American countries. Its symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches and exhaustion. Elaborating on the COVID-19 cases in Turkey, Koca said the recent wave reached its peak three to four weeks ago and the daily infections have already dropped to 10,000.

There is no greater wealth than wisdom, no greater poverty than ignorance; no greater heritage than culture and no greater support than consultation.

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# Palestinian Dies of Wounds Sustained During Zionist Raid

NABLUS (Dispatches) – Hundreds of Palestinians on Tuesday walked in the funeral of Mohammed Araysheh, a resident of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, who succumbed to his wounds after being shot by Zionist troops.

Wafa news agency reported that Araysheh, 24, died in Rafidia Hospital, where he was being treated for almost two weeks after being shot during a raid by Zionist troops in the Old City of Nablus, where three Palestinians had been killed in August.

In recent months, Palestinian towns and villages in the northern West Bank have seen increased Zionist raids to arrest political activists and, in some incidents, assassinate leaders from Palestinian factions. The cities of Nablus and Jenin have been at the center of these raids.

On Tuesday, Zionist troops arrested a Palestinian from Qafin town, north of Tulkarm, after raiding his house. Another three



*Mohammed Araysheh, a 24-year-old Palestinian from the city of Nablus, succumbed to his wounds on 23 August 2022.*

Palestinians were also arrested in the city of Al-Khalil, south of the West Bank, where Zionist troops set up a makeshift military checkpoint at its northern entrance.

The occupying regime's troops stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles at Halhul, Sair and Beit Kahil's main entrances.

So far this year, Zionist troops have killed more than 80 Palestinians during raids in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, the Gaza-based Hamas and Islamic Jihad resistance movements have praised the path of resistance as the “strategic option” to confront Zionist oc-

cupation of Palestinian territories and the regime's acts of aggression, emphasizing that there is no turnaround in the stance.

The two movements, in a joint statement released following a high-level meeting of their leaders in Gaza City on Monday, said resistance is a strategic and unalterable approach for them, and underlined that coordination between the two groups is at its pinnacle.

“We warn the [Zionist] enemy against our nation's courageous resistance in the face of its potential treachery. Our response to such a folly will be decisive and comprehensive,” the statement read.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements also commended the formation of the Joint Operations Room as a national achievement, and stressed that Palestinian resistance groups will all work together in order to strengthen its role and position and attain full liberation of occupied Palestinian territories.

## Iraq's Political Crisis Escalates as Judiciary Suspends Work



*Supporters of Iraqi populist leader Muqtada al-Sadr gather for a sit-in in front of the Supreme Judicial Council, amid a political crisis in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 23, 2022.*

BAGHDAD (Al Jazeera/Xinhua) – Supporters of the Iraqi populist leader Muqtada al-Sadr have rallied in front of the country's Supreme Judicial Council, expanding a sit-in that initially began in front of the parliament building, and escalating their calls for parliament to be dissolved.

The locations, both in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, a legacy of Iraq's American occupation where government buildings and embassies are found, are now at the center of a political storm in the country.

“These supporters came from the area in front of the parliament,” said Al Jazeera's Mahmoud Abdelwahed, reporting from outside the Supreme Judicial Council on Tuesday. “They say that they are requesting that the Judicial Council dissolves the parliament, and obliges concerned authorities to hold early elections as a way to get out of the current political impasse.”

In response, the Supreme Judicial Council, along with the Federal Supreme Court, said that they had received threats, and had suspended court sessions.

Al-Sadr warned last Wednesday that he was giving the judiciary a week to dissolve parliament, but the Supreme Judicial Council has stated that it does not have the authority to do so.

Supporters of the leader, who has

been a growing force in Iraqi politics over the last decade, emerged as the biggest party in parliament after elections in October.

However, they were unable to form a government, and al-Sadr ordered his parliamentary bloc to resign from their seats en-masse in June, which they promptly did.

Al-Sadr's supporters have taken to the streets ever since and stormed parliament in July.

In return, supporters of al-Sadr's rivals, the Coordination Framework Alliance (CFA), have held protests in August near the Green Zone, raising fears of a clash between the two groups.

The unrest at Iraq's judiciary forced the country's caretaker Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi to return to the country from a regional summit in Egypt.

Al-Kadhimi, also commander-in-chief of the Iraqi forces, returned to Baghdad to directly supervise the security forces protecting judicial institutions, according to a statement issued by his media office.

“Disrupting the work of the judicial institution exposes the country to real risks,” he warned, stressing “the need to respect state institutions.”

Al-Kadhimi also called for an immediate meeting of political leaders to activate a national dialogue to defuse the crisis.

## CIA Found No Evidence for Banning Palestinian NGOs

WASHINGTON (MEMO) – A classified CIA report has revealed that no evidence has been found to support the Zionist regime's decision to label six prominent Palestinian NGOs as “terrorist organizations”.

The agency was apparently handed intelligence by the Zionists about its designation earlier this year, but has dismissed the occupation regime's claims about the Palestinian groups and concluded that the material investigated did not show any evidence to support the regime's position.

A source familiar with the study is reported by the Guardian as saying that the CIA report “doesn't say that the groups are guilty of anything.” A second source said that the assessment was highly classified.

U.S. President Joe Biden and his administration is now under pressure to make its position clear on the issue, especially as

numerous countries, including allies of the Zionist regime, have rejected the terror designation of the Palestinian human right groups. The U.S., however, has not criticized or questioned the regime's position publicly, despite there being no evidence to support the “terrorist” claim.

“The United States should very clearly call on Israel to reverse these designations, and to allow these organizations to continue their vital work,” said Omar Shakir, Palestine director of Human Rights Watch. “The reality here is that the United States has for too long turned a blind eye, and in some cases even green lighted, quite serious Israeli abuses.”

Shakir added that Washington's position towards the Palestinian civil society organizations is part of a broader pattern of America's failure to defend human rights. “The position towards the Palestinian human rights organiza-

tions highlights a much larger failing in U.S. government policy on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and puts the United States squarely out of touch with the consensus in the human rights movement.”

In October, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al-Haq, the Bisan Center for Research and Development, Defence for Children International-Palestine, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and the Union of Palestinian Women Committees, were all designated as ‘terror organizations’ by the Zionist regime. There was speculation at the time that these groups were targeted for their work with the International Criminal Court (ICC) which has put the occupying regime under investigation for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Near universal condemnation

followed. European diplomats said that they found no evidence supporting the Zionist regime's claim and those that temporarily cut funding to the Palestinian groups resumed payments soon after. Last month nine European countries expressed their refusal to stop cooperating with the Palestinian NGOs due to the lack of evidence proving the claim.

U.S. Congressman Rashida Tlaib has slammed the Zionist regime's closure of the Palestinian human rights organizations in the occupied West Bank, describing it as a “ridiculous, unjustified attack”.

“These acts are a direct result of the Biden administration's complete failure to defend Palestinian human rights against racism and ethnic cleansing,” Tlaib said in a statement on Monday, adding that “silence by our country is enabling more death and violence”.

## Chasm Between Saudi-, UAE-Backed Forces in Yemen Opens Up

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The head of Yemen's Saudi-backed so-called Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) Rashad al-Alimi has ordered United Arab Emirates-backed separatists to stop military operations in the country's south.

The notice issued to the head of the Southern Transitional Council, and fellow council member, Aidarous al-Zubaidi, and seen by Reuters, is an attempt by al-Alimi to step in and stop an STC campaign against rival factions, including the Islah Party.

Al-Alimi said that all military operations should be stopped until the implementation of

a troop redeployment in Yemen's south, stipulated in a power-sharing agreement from 2019, could be fully implemented.

The divisions within the council expose its precarious nature, with members often ideologically opposed, and only united by opposition to the popular Ansarullah forces, and support from the Saudi-led military coalition.

The STC said on Tuesday that it had launched an “anti-terror” operation in Shabwa's neighboring governorate of Abyan.

The operation would “cleanse [Abyan] of terrorist organizations”, including Al-Qaeda.

Al-Qaeda has conducted several attacks across Yemen's south this year, particularly targeting soldiers.

After an advancement by the Sana'a-based Ansarullah forces in Shabwa in late 2020, the STC and other pro-UAE factions blamed Islah for allowing the advance, and they were forced to wait for the UAE-backed mercenaries to rush to their rescue.

The removal of an Islah-aligned governor, Muhammed Saleh Bin Adio, in December, also cemented the ascendancy of pro-UAE forces.

## Turkey: No Preconditions for Dialogue With Syria

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey does not have preconditions for dialogue with the Syrian government and talks should be goal-oriented, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Tuesday in a further softening of Ankara's stance toward Damascus.

Turkey has backed militants fighting to topple Syria's President Bashar Assad, and cut diplomatic relations with Damascus early in the 11-year conflict.

But Russian intervention has helped Assad's government drive the militants back to a pocket of northwest Syria. Erdogan said after talks in Russia earlier this month that President Vladimir Putin had suggested Turkey co-operate with the Syrian government to tackle violence along their joint border.

Erdogan has warned that Turkey could launch another military incursion into northern Syria targeting Kurdish militants, to extend a ‘safe zone’ where Ankara says some of the 3.6 million

Syrian refugees which it currently hosts could return.

“There cannot be a condition for dialogue but what are the aims of these contacts? The country needs to be cleared of terrorists... People need to be able to return,” Cavusoglu said.

“No conditions for dialogue but what is the aim, the target? It needs to be goal-oriented,” he said.

The Turkish top diplomat added that he briefly spoke with Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad at the Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in October last year in Serbia's capital of Belgrade, offering to help the Syrian government contact the opposition.

Asked last week about potential talks with Damascus, Erdogan was quoted as saying diplomacy between states can never be fully severed. There is a “need to take further steps with Syria,” Erdogan said according to a transcript of his comments to Turkish media.