

ISLAMABAD (AP) – A member of the Daesh terrorist group has been arrested in last week's shooting attack targeting the Pakistani Embassy in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, the spokesman of the Taliban government said. The attack, in which shots were fired at the embassy from a nearby building, triggered anger in Pakistan, and increased tensions between the two South Asian neighbors.

Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul was walking across the lawn inside the embassy compound at the time of the attack. He was unharmed but one of his Pakistani guards was wounded.

O son of Adam, if you have collected anything in excess of your actual need, you will act only as its trustee for someone else to use it.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Army Spokesman: Yemen Can Retaliate With Dozens of Missiles, Drones



Yemen has reached a level of military capability that has enabled it to respond to the enemy's aggression with remarkable firepower, the country's Armed Forces' spokesman says.

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The Yemeni Armed Forces' spokesman says the country has reached a level of military capability that has enabled it to respond to the enemy's aggression with remarkable firepower.

“In the past, the enemy used to bomb Sana'a and other provinces. Now, however, we are capable of returning every attack with dozens of missiles and drones,” Brigadier General Yahya Saree said, Yemen's al-Masirah television network reported.

Yemen's Armed Forces are now prepared to respond to all sorts of offensives and have managed to “create a [new] equation in the balance of fear and terror with the enemy,” he added.

Saree said the country's efforts to confront the enemy were a “holy” struggle. He commemorated the country's martyrs, saying they helped found the basis of the security and stability that Yemen enjoys today.

“Thanks to the martyrs' bravery and self-sacrifice, the Yemeni people now hold their heads high and pride themselves on the martyrs' courage,” concluded the official.

Saudi Arabia launched the 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 countries.

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

The Saudi-led coalition has failed to meet any of the objectives, while killing hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and turning the entire Yemen into the site of, what the United Nations calls, the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Rights Organization: Riyadh Sentences Six More Political Dissidents to Death



A general view of the maximum-security al-Ha'ir Prison, located approximately 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Dispatches) – A human rights organization says the Saudi judiciary has sentenced six more prisoners of conscience to death as the kingdom employs secret trials and controversial rulings as a tool to further crack down on political prisoners and possibly eliminate them.

Sanad human rights organization, which defends political and civil rights in Saudi Arabia, said the verdicts were passed irrespective of the international outcry and criticisms over arbitrary executions of Saudi citizens at the hands of the government.

Sanad said the death sentences were issued against Mohammed Al Tahnoon, Mustafa Abu Shaheen, Abdullah Ghazwi, Zuhair Al Samkhan, Mohammed Al Masbah and Razi al-Shayib.

According to the rights group, the fresh death sentences take the number of jailed dissidents who face imminent execution to 59.

Sanad also emphasized that the government of Saudi Arabia completely ignores international warnings in this regard and continues to arbitrarily issue death sentences against its political opponents.

Ever since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman became Saudi Arabia's de facto leader in 2017, the kingdom has arrested hundreds of activists, bloggers, intellectuals and others for their political activism, showing almost zero tolerance for dissent even in the face of international condemnation of the crack-down.

Muslim scholars have been executed and women's rights campaigners have been put behind bars and tortured as freedom of expression, association, and belief continue to be denied by the kingdom's authorities.

Over the past years, Riyadh has also redefined its anti-terrorism laws to target activism.

Village Demolished for 210th Time Zionists Tear Down Mosque in Al-Khalil

AL-KHALIL (WAFA/Anadolu) – Zionist occupation forces on Monday demolished a mosque in Khilet Taha, a neighborhood in the town of Dura to the southwest of Al-Khalil, according to a WAFA correspondent.

Forces, accompanied by heavy machinery, stormed the said area and tore down a 100-square-meter mosque.

Khilet Taha area is threatened with seizure by the occupation forces; which seek to take over around 3000 dunums of Palestinian residents' land in favor of illegal settlement expansion.

Meanwhile, the occupying regime troops demolished the Arab village of al-Araqueeb for the 210th time on Monday.

According to a statement made to an Anadolu correspondent by Aziz al-Turi, a member of the Local Committee for the Defence of al-Araqueeb, “The Israeli forces stormed the village of al-Araqueeb and demolished its homes for the 210th time.”

Al-Turi reiterated that the people “will rebuild their village, as they always do.”

The Zionist regime authorities demolished the village houses

the last time in the middle of last month.

Anadolu correspondent reported that about twenty-two families live in the al-Araqueeb homes built of wood, plastic and tin.

The regime authorities demolished the village for the first time in July 2010, and have been demolishing it ever since, every time the residents rebuild it.

The occupying regime does not recognize al-Araqueeb, but its residents insist on remaining on their land, despite the repeated demolition of their homes.

According to Zochrot, an organization of Israeli Jewish and Arab activists which documents the Palestinian Nakba of 1948, al-Araqueeb was built for the first time during the Ottoman period on land purchased by the residents.

The organization says that the authorities are working to expel the residents of the village in order to control their land. It notes that the regime does not recognize dozens of other villages in the Negev region, and refuses to provide any public services to them.

UAE President Makes Surprise Visit to Qatar Following Boycott

DOHA (AP) – The leader of the United Arab Emirates made a surprise visit on Monday to Qatar as it is hosting the World Cup — his first since leading a years-long four-nation boycott of Doha over a political dispute that poisoned regional relations.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who also serves as the ruler of Abu Dhabi, made the trip at the invitation of Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the state-run WAM news agency reported.

“The visit builds on the existing brotherly relations between the two nations and their people,” WAM said in its brief report.

The state-run Qatar News Agency said Sheikh Tamim met “his brother” Sheikh Mohammed on arrival at the country's massive Hamad International Airport.

Sheikh Mohammed was widely viewed by analysts as one of the main architects of the boycott of Qatar by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that began in 2017.

At the height of the Qatar crisis,

newspaper columns even suggested digging a trench along the 87-kilometer (54-mile) border with Saudi Arabia and filling it with nuclear waste. While rhetorical bluster, it showed how deeply the anger ran in the region amid the dispute — which Kuwait's then-ruler suggested nearly sparked a war.

During the 2011 protests, Saudi Arabia and the UAE sent troops to help a violent crackdown on demonstrations in Bahrain.

The boycott, during which the four nations shut off air and sea routes to Qatar, only ended in January 2021 just ahead of President Joe Biden taking office in the United States. The boycott began immediately after a visit to the region by then-President Donald Trump early in his presidency.

The opening ceremony of the World Cup, which coincided with Qatar facing Ecuador in the tournament's first match, was attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

Turkey Says Expects More Extraditions From Sweden

ANKARA (Reuters) – Sweden's extradition to Turkey last week of a Kurdish man with alleged terrorism links is a “good start”, but Stockholm needs to do more before Ankara can approve its NATO membership, Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdog said on Monday.

Sweden on Friday deported Turkish citizen Mahmut Tat, who had sought asylum in Sweden in 2015 after being sentenced in Turkey to six years and 10 months in jail for links to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

“This is a good start from Sweden that shows their sincerity and goodwill. We hope new (extraditions) will follow in line with this sincerity,” Bozdog said in a televised inter-

view with state broadcaster TRT Haber.

However, he made clear that Turkey expected further moves from Stockholm before it could ratify Sweden's NATO application.

“In line with the trilateral memorandum with Sweden and Finland, they should lift all (arms) embargoes on Turkey, change their legislation for the fight against terrorism, and extradite all terrorists that Turkey wants. All of these conditions should not be reduced to extraditions,” Bozdog said.

Sweden and Finland applied in May to join NATO in response to Russia's war on Ukraine, but ran into objections from Turkey, which accused the two countries of harboring militants from the PKK and other groups.

Stockholm and Helsinki deny sheltering militants but have pledged to cooperate with Ankara to fully address its security concerns and also to lift arms embargoes.

NATO makes its decisions by consensus, meaning that the two Nordic nations require the approval of all 30 alliance member states. Only Turkey still stands opposed to their membership.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu held trilateral talks with his Swedish and Finnish counterparts on the margins of a NATO meeting in Bucharest this week.

“The statements (coming out of Sweden) are good, the determination is good but we need to see concrete steps,” Cavusoglu said.