

After Last Month’s Attacks in Syria

CENTCOM: 11 More U.S. Troops Diagnosed With ‘Traumatic Brain Injury’

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A spokesman for U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) says 11 more American troops have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury following a series of attacks that targeted U.S. illegal bases in Syria back in March.

“Our medical teams continue to assess and evaluate our troops for indications of [traumatic brain injury],” said Col. Joe Buccino, spokesman for CENTCOM, CNN reported on Thursday.

The new cases bring the number of U.S. personnel wounded in the attacks to a total of 25, including one U.S. contractor who was killed at a facility in Hasakah, northeast Syria, on March 23 in an alleged drone attack that Washington attributed to IRGC-backed resistance groups.

The U.S. troops, whose presence in Syria is illegal under international law, carried out what they called “precision airstrikes” in eastern Syria on the same day.

“The airstrikes were conducted in response to today’s attack as well as a series of recent attacks against coalition forces in Syria,” Pentagon chief



American soldiers walk while on patrol by the Suwaydiyah oil fields in Syria’s northeastern province of Hasakah.

Lloyd Austin said in a statement, noting that the aggression was carried out at the direction of President Joe Biden.

Meanwhile, local sources pointed out that the target was not an Iran-aligned military post as the U.S. military claimed, but rather a rural development center and a grain center in Hrabash neighborhood, near Dayr al-Zawr military airport.

On March 24, more than 20 rockets

are reportedly fired against two illegal American outposts based near the al-Omar oilfield and the Koniko gas field in Syria’s Dayr al-Zawr Province.

One week after the attacks on U.S. illegal bases, the Pentagon announced that six service members had been diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries, also cautioning the number may grow since symptoms develop over time.

“All personnel in the vicinity of

a blast are screened for traumatic brain injury. So these additional injuries were identified during post-attack medical screenings,” Pentagon spokesman Brigadier General Patrick Ryder told a news briefing on March 30.

Mild traumatic brain injuries can lead to changes in personality and balance issues as well as symptoms such as dizziness, confusion, headaches, and irritability.

Meanwhile, some observers believe the US military does not openly acknowledge when it suffer casualties in the occupied territories due to retaliatory attacks by resistance fighters and rather, it uses the term “brain injuries” for fallen soldiers.

They say the term “brain injuries” reflects the number of dead, which the U.S. hesitates to formally announce.

The U.S. has for long employed the alleged “Daesh threat” as a pretext to continue its illegal occupation of northeastern Syrian territories.

U.S. occupation forces frequently loot oil from Syrian gas fields and transport them to other occupation bases in Iraq via illegal crossings.

prehensive government with the participation of all Afghan ethnic groups.

He also highlighted the importance of putting an end to tensions in Afghanistan’s border areas with its neighboring states.

Russia and China are among a few countries that have kept their diplomatic missions in Afghanistan’s capital, Kabul, since the Taliban took power in August 2021.

Moscow worked for years to establish contacts with the Taliban, even though it designated the group a terror organization in 2003 and never took it off the list. It hosted several rounds of talks on Afghanistan that involved senior representatives of the Taliban and neighboring countries.

Beijing has taken a higher profile on regional issues related to Afghanistan as part of China’s efforts to extend its global clout.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang held separate talks on the sidelines of Thursday’s meeting to discuss a range of issues, including the situation in Ukraine, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In a statement preceding the Uzbekistan conference, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Beijing was ready to work more closely with Afghanistan’s neighbors and the international community for stability, security, prosperity, and development in both the country and wider region.

The statement reaffirmed China’s pledge to respect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, as well as the choices made by its people. It called on the international community to firmly support Afghanistan to combat terrorism, and urged the United States to live up to its commitment to the country.

Beijing also expressed hope that Afghanistan’s interim government would continue working actively to meet its people’s interests and the international community’s expectations for an open and inclusive political structure.

“We hope the Afghan interim government will protect the basic rights and interests of all Afghan people, including women, children and all ethnic groups,” the statement said.

Girls currently cannot attend school beyond sixth grade, and women are not allowed at universities in Afghanistan. Authorities present the education restrictions as a temporary suspension and not a ban, but universities and schools reopened in March without their female students.

Women also are barred from public spaces, including parks, and most forms of employment.

The policies have raised fierce international objections, increasing the country’s isolation at a time when its economy has collapsed and worsened a humanitarian crisis.

No country has recognized the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

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people is unprecedented,” he stated.

The commander of the IRGC Navy said the parades conveyed the message to the “child-killing Tel Aviv regime that the oppressed Palestinians are not left alone, and that the glory of supporting the nation enhances every year.”

Since the start of the holy month of Ramadan, the Zionist regime has imposed strict restrictions on the entry and exit of Palestinians to and from the gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Amid heightened tensions with Palestinian worshippers, Israeli settlers also press ahead with their frequent incursions and provocative rituals at

the holy site.

The resistance movements in Gaza and elsewhere have pledged to confront the occupying regime on multiple fronts.

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as well as agricultural crops. Its use involves, among other things, the goal of inflicting large-scale and irreparable economic damage on the enemy,” the commission said.

“The covert and targeted use of such a weapon in anticipation of positive inevitable direct military confrontation could create a significant advantage for U.S. forces over the adversary, even against those who possess other types of weapons of mass destruction,” it said.

“The possession of such highly effective biological weapons creates, in the view of the U.S. military, the real prerequisites to change the nature of contemporary armed conflicts,” it added.

Soon after Russia launched its military operation in Ukraine in February 2022, Russian Ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia stated that secret American labs in Ukraine had been engaged in biological warfare. The U.S. and Ukraine, however, denied the charges.

In October last year, Russia asked the UN Security Council to establish a commission to investigate its claims that Washington and Kyiv were violating the convention prohibiting the use of biological weapons as a result of alleged activities being carried out at biological laboratories in Ukraine.

Also on Thursday, Kanaani categorically dismissed a recent report by Politico magazine that China and Russia are in advanced secret talks with Iran to replenish the Islamic Republic’s supply of a key chemical compound used to propel ballistic missiles.

Kanaani told IRNA that such reports are aimed at prolongation of the Ukraine war.

He said such fabricated news reports seek to deviate the world public opinion away from the Western military supplies being sent to Ukraine, and intend to further prolong the war in the Eastern European country in pursuit of their strategic goals.

Leader’s... (Continued From Page 2)

According to reports, a significant number of prisoners have been released as part of the decree while officials are continuing to examine the cases of prisoners.

The mass amnesty, however, comes with certain conditions as it does not apply to those convicted on charges of spying for foreign intelligence agencies, those having affiliation with groups hostile to the Islamic Republic as well as those held on serious security-related charges.

Riots erupted in Iran in mid-September when 22-year-old woman Mahsa Amini died in a hospital in Tehran, three days after she collapsed at a police station. An investigation later attributed Amini’s death to her pre-existing medical condition, rather than alleged beatings by the police.

Rioters went on a rampage, brutally attacking security officers and causing massive damage to public property. Dozens of people and security personnel were killed in the riots.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hailed the generous act of Ayatollah Khamenei, saying, “In order to make the sweetness of his wise move more enjoyable for the people, it is necessary to extend and strengthen this view in the political and social spheres.”

The announcement was widely welcomed by people and officials across the country.

Report: Kushner Secured Lucrative Investment in Persian Gulf at Expense of U.S. Taxpayers

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Jared Kushner is reportedly amassing huge fortunes through investment from Persian Gulf countries while being given protection by the U.S. secret service at the expense of American taxpayers.

Kushner, who is the son-in-law of former U.S. president Donald Trump, left his White House role in 2021. Ordinarily security service protection would end when an administration departs, however Kushner is said to have reaped the benefits of his time in office months after he left.

Allegations of nepotism and corruption dogged the Trump administration. The former president was repeatedly accused of using the office of U.S. Presi-

dency to enrich himself. No other president managed to fuse their private business interests with America’s highest public office.

Kushner also came under the spotlight. A probe was launched by a U.S. House committee into Saudi Arabia’s \$2 billion investment into his firm. The investigation sought to uncover if he had traded on his government position to land the lucrative investment from the Saudis.

New information uncovered by the U.S. watchdog, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), revealed details about how Kushner continued to benefit from his time in the White House.

According to CREW, the U.S.

secret service spent more than \$16,000 to provide protection during his trip to the UAE and Qatar. Both countries recently invested around \$200 million in Kushner’s private equity firm, which he launched “as he left the White House.”

Kushner’s trip to Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 9-11 May and Doha, Qatar, from 11-12 May came a few months after his father-in-law, Donald Trump, left the presidency in 2021. CREW explained that ordinarily, a former president’s adult children and their spouses would not qualify for secret service protection, but Trump granted a six-month extension of protection for his family, which cost taxpayers \$1.7 million.

During his time at the White House, Kushner developed a friendship with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He reportedly defended bin Salman in the wake of the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which the crown prince allegedly orchestrated.

“Perhaps not so coincidentally, the Saudi Sovereign Wealth Fund, controlled by MBS, also invested \$2 billion with Kushner’s firm,” said CREW referring to the crown prince using his popular acronym. “Kushner scored that investment just six months after the end of the Trump administration, around the time of this trip to the Middle East.”

Muslims... (Continued From Page One)

Ghalibaf said Israeli attempts to normalize ties with Muslims and force them to concede defeat have backfired, as Islam has achieved glory and dignity.

The Zionist regime, he added, made vain attempts to portray Iran and the resistance front as a threat to Muslim countries, but the conspiracy ended in abject failure.

Chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hussein Salami said Israel’s collapse is imminent as the regime faces several crises and “a new life” breathed into the Palestinian resistance.

“The Zionist regime has decayed and is close to collapse,” he told Quds Day rallies in Isfahan.

“The first sign of this regime’s decline is that there is no established political system inside the regime,” he said.

The regime is facing several major crises, including isolation in foreign policy, internal instability, domestic protests, and inefficient government, added the Iranian commander.

“A new life has been breathed into the Palestinian movement,” he said.

“Operations are carried out in the West Bank and Tel Aviv and a re-

gime that has encircled itself with walls like an appalling garrison and is equipped with the most modern security systems that cannot prevent delivery of arms to West Bank and operations of Palestinian fighters.”

On the international front, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi called on the Islamic countries to form a united front in order to stop the Zionist regime’s criminal acts against Palestinians.

In a phone call with Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Iranian president expressed deep concern over the latest developments in the occupied territories, especially the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Sharif strongly condemned Israeli crimes, saying his country will remain a permanent supporter of the Palestinian people.

Yemen... (Continued From Page One)

The Saudi negotiating team was headed by Ambassador to Yemen Muhammad al-Jaber who left four days after he arrived seeking to “stabilize” a truce that lapsed in 2022.

Last week, Ansarullah’s Abdul-salam said, “We pursue our efforts through negotiations to end the aggression and lift the siege, and we hope that the efforts will be crowned

with a peace agreement.”

The war in Yemen has created one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed through direct and indirect causes, with 4.5 million people internally displaced and more than two-thirds of the population living below the poverty line, according to UN estimates.

Observers believe the recent rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia could help enhance stability in the region and, in part, facilitate efforts to reach sustainable peace in Yemen.

Tehran and Riyadh agreed to restore diplomatic ties on March 10 after intensive talks hosted by China. Top diplomats of the two countries also held a landmark meeting on Thursday in Beijing, stressing on efforts to enhance mutual trust and help boost regional security.

France... (Continued From Page One)

The union said the “the government hijacked parliamentary procedure” by wrapping the pension reform plan into a bill to finance social security, thus allowing it to push the measure through without a vote.

“The Constitutional Council can only censure this brutal and unjustified reform,” the union said in a statement.

Unions have vowed to continue protest actions in an attempt to get Macron to simply withdraw the measure.

“As long as this reform isn’t withdrawn, the mobilization will continue in one form or another,” Sophie Binet, the CGT chief said Thursday.

The leader of the moderate CFDT, Laurent Berger, warned that “there will be repercussions” if the Constitutional Council gives the French government a green light.

Polls have consistently shown that the majority of French citizens are opposed to working two more years before being able to reap pension benefits.

Critics accuse the French president of being cut off from reality, running roughshod over public opinion and parliament while pursuing his private agenda.

Political observers say the widespread discontent over the government’s reform could have longer-term repercussions, including a possible boost for the far right.

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commitment and establish a com-