

Daesh Terrorists Kill Nine Syrian Soldiers

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Daesh terrorists killed nine Syrian soldiers in the war-torn country's vast Badia desert, a war monitor said.

"Nine Syrian soldiers were killed and three wounded" when they had gathered in the east of Hama province in central Syria, said the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Daesh has stepped up attacks in Syria in recent months, particularly in the Badia desert which runs from the outskirts of Damascus to the Iraqi border. On February 2, the extremist group killed five members of Syrian army forces.

If I cut a faithful Muslim into pieces to make him hate me, he will not turn into my enemy and if I give all the wealth of this world to a hypocrite to make him my friend he will not befriend me.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Sheikh Qassim: Bahrain Will Emerge Victorious



Bahrain's most prominent Shia cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim.

TEHRAN -- On the 13th anniversary of the popular uprising against the ruling Al Khalifah dynasty, Bahrain's most prominent cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim on Wednesday called on the nation to press ahead with the resistance against the U.S.-backed monarchical regime in Manama.

Delivering a televised speech during a ceremony in Iran's holy city of Qom to mark February 14, the day Bahrain's uprising took shape in 2011, Sheikh Qassim called on the Bahrainis to double down on efforts for

change.

"The Bahraini nation will eventually emerge victorious, get rid of the American influence and corruption, and attain complete independence."

He said the Bahraini nation cannot be defeated as they are determined in their struggle, and will not back down from their legitimate demands by any means.

Sheikh Qassim underlined that the Bahrainis will remain a glorious nation, irrespective of the pro-Western policies of the Al Khalifah regime.

The Bahraini cleric condemned the Al Khalifah regime for the normalization of ties with Israel. "Such a process amounts to aligning against Islam, Muslims and human dignity at large. Muslims and all those who have faith in humanity must resist normalization."

Anti-monarchy demonstrations in Bahrain have been held on an almost regular basis over the past years. Demonstrators want a just participatory system of governance representing all the Bahrainis.

Manama has responded to demands for social equality with an iron fist, clamping down on voices of dissent.

In September 2020, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates signed U.S.-brokered normalization agreements with Israel during an event in Washington. Sudan and Morocco followed suit later in the year and inked similar U.S.-brokered deals.

The move sparked widespread condemnations from the Palestinians as well as nations and human rights advocates across the globe, especially within the Muslim world.

Elsewhere in his remarks on Wednesday, Sheikh Qassim touched on the large-scale anti-Israel operation by the Palestinian resistance.

"Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was a move which got underway with no intention of retreat. It was launched to expand than to diminish. The operation was carried out to reinforce the Palestinian nation than to undermine them, and seeks the destruction of the Zionist enemy and elimination of all fallacies."

Sheikh Qassim finally hailed the close and effective cooperation among the Palestinian factions, Hamas and Hezbollah resistance movements, and Iraqi anti-terror groups.

U.S. Base in Syria Comes Under Missile Attack



A U.S. base in Syria was targeted with missiles on Wednesday.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – An illegal base of the United States in Syria was targeted in the east of the country with missiles on Wednesday.

No groups or individuals have yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Resistance groups based in Iraq have repeatedly hit U.S. bases on Iraqi and Syrian territories with missiles and drones over the past weeks in retaliation for the Zionist regime's crimes against Palestinians in Gaza.

The groups are also outraged at the U.S. military presence in the region, which they see as a source of instability, as well as Washington's support for the Israeli regime in its ongoing war on Gaza.

A day earlier, the Pentagon announced that the number of U.S. casualties in Iraq, Syria and Jordan since Oct. 18 totals around 186.

"Of those 186 casualties, over 130 are currently assessed as having traumatic brain injury," Department of Defense Spokesman Pete Nguyen said in a statement.

Since the Israeli army launched intensified attacks on the Gaza Strip on

Oct. 7 last year, U.S. military bases in Syria and Iraq have been targeted with drones and rockets, particularly al-Tanf Garrison in Syria as well as bases in the city of al-Malikiyah near the Iraqi border, the city of al-Shaddadi in al-Hasakah Governorate and Dayr al-Zawr province.

The Zionist regime has since pounded the Gaza Strip, killing at least 28,340 people and injuring 67,984 others.

The Israeli onslaught has left 85% of Gaza's population internally displaced amid acute shortages of food, clean water and medicine, while 60% of the enclave's infrastructure was damaged or destroyed, according to the UN.

The United States, Israel's biggest ally, has provided the regime with arms and ammunitions since the initiation of the Gaza war.

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed billions of dollars of military assistance package for Israel.

Washington has also vetoed United Nations Security Council resolutions that called on the occupying regime to cease its aggression.

Hamas Heads to Cairo Truce Talks

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Negotiations to pause the Zionist regime's aggression on Gaza headed into a second day in Cairo on Wednesday, as displaced Gazans braced for an expected Israeli genocide on their last refuge of Rafah.

A Hamas source told AFP that a delegation was headed to the Egyptian capital to meet Egyptian and Qatari mediators, after Israeli negotiators held talks with the mediators on Tuesday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, an outspoken critic of Israel's conduct of the Gaza war, was also due in Cairo Wednesday for talks with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

CIA Director William Burns had joined Tuesday's talks with David Barnea, head of the occupying regime's Mossad spy

agency.

Mediators are racing to secure a pause to the Zionist regime's genocidal campaign before Israel proceeds with a full-scale ground incursion into the Gaza Strip's far-southern city of Rafah, where more than 1.4 million Palestinians are trapped.

The potential for mass civilian casualties has triggered urgent appeals, even from close allies, for Israel to hold off sending troops into the last major population center they have yet to enter in the four-month war.

Multi-party negotiations on hammering out a truce agreement between the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas and the Israeli regime failed to yield any results as the occupying entity's genocide in the besieged Gaza

Strip enters its fifth month.

The American news website Axios cited an unnamed Israeli official as saying that the talks involving the United States, Egypt, Israel and Qatar on a ceasefire deal, which also included an agreement on the release of captives, ended "without a breakthrough" on Tuesday.

The Israeli delegation was on its way back from Cairo, the official said, adding that CIA Director William Burns, Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahma Al Thani, and el-Sisi as well as other Egyptian officials had participated in the Cairo-based negotiations aimed at "protecting Palestinian civilians and delivering more aid into Gaza."

Citing Egyptian officials, the Wall Street Journal also said the

Israeli delegation had departed the Egyptian capital "without closing any of the major gaps in the negotiations."

A senior Egyptian official said that despite the Israeli delegation's departure, the negotiations were "positive" and would continue for three more days.

A Hamas official was reported as saying that the resistance movement was waiting for the outcome of the Cairo meeting, but was "open to discussing any initiative that achieves an end to aggression and war."

The parties in the talks were seeking a formula acceptable to Hamas, which "says it is only possible to sign a deal once it is based on an Israeli commitment to ending its war and pulling out its forces from Gaza."

Report: Israel Failed to Convince Morocco to Play Role in Gaza War

RABAT (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has reportedly failed to convince Morocco to play a role in the Gaza Strip, including mediating the release of Israeli prisoners of war held by Palestinian resistance factions there, the Hebrew Kan Reshet Bet radio station reported.

The occupying regime sees Morocco as a "positive actor in the region", the radio station said, and would like it to take up a prominent role regarding Gaza, including efforts to release Israeli captives; some of them Jews of Moroccan origins, as well as in the humanitarian aid issue and what Israel calls the 'day after' the war on the Gaza Strip.

Morocco restored its relations with the Zionist regime in 2020.

The Israeli radio station has claimed that relations between the two sides have flourished on the political and security levels, as well as on the popular level.

Israeli attempts to exploit the war on Gaza aim to strengthen some of its foreign relations, including with Morocco, by showing these countries that it is interested in them taking a role in what is happening

there, according to the same source.

Since the beginning of the Israeli war on Gaza, Morocco has witnessed massive demonstrations against Israel and in solidarity with Gaza.

Meanwhile, pro-Palestinian protesters have staged a rally in the Chilean capital Santiago, calling on their government to sever ties with the Israeli regime over the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

The demonstrators took to the streets in the Providencia district of the capital city on Tuesday, as they waved Palestinian flags and demanded an end to Israel's brutal aggression against Gaza.

The protesters called on President Gabriel Boric to immediately withdraw the country's ambassador from Israel, and urged the government to close the "criminal" Israeli embassy.

Back in January, Boric said the situation in Gaza is "much worse" than that of the German city of Berlin in 1945, referring to the Fall of Berlin that ended World War II.

The Chilean president's remarks came after in November the country recalled its ambassador from Is-

rael for consultations due to the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Accommodating around half a million Palestinians, Chile hosts the largest Palestinian community outside Arab countries.

The Latin American country recognized Palestine as a "free, independent, and sovereign state" in 2011. Chile has also asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, citing the "escalation of violence against civilian targets".

Israel waged the devastating war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas carried out a surprise retaliatory attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupying entity over its intensified violence against Palestinians.

The Israeli aggression has so far killed some 28,500 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

The Tel Aviv regime has imposed a "complete siege" on the territory, cutting off fuel, electricity, food, and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there.

Rights Group: Afghan Population Increasingly Vulnerable to Malnutrition, Illness

KABUL (AP) – The Human Rights Watch issued a stark report on the health of the Afghan population, warning that the lack of foreign assistance to the country has resulted in more malnutrition and illnesses among Afghans.

The report said the reduction in foreign assistance to public health in Afghanistan, and the Taliban's abuses against women and girls, have "jeopardized the right to health for millions of Afghans." Since the Taliban takeover in 2021, foreign aid for Afghanistan dried up and led to many suffering from poverty and hunger.

"The loss of foreign development aid and Taliban rights violations have caused a catastrophic health crisis in Afghanistan that is disproportionately harming women and girls," Fereshta Abbasi, Afghanistan researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

"The Taliban have severely obstructed women from providing or accessing health care, while the cost of treatment and medicine has put care out of reach for many Afghans," Abbasi added.

The report noted that the World Food Program said last year that Afghanistan's malnutrition rates reached a record high, with about half of the population enduring severe hunger throughout the year.

The report also noted that there

was a severe reduction in funds for hospitals in Afghanistan. The International Committee of the Red Cross provided support for 33 area hospitals in the two years since the Taliban takeover, but ended its program last year when it began to experience its own funding struggles.

The report said humanitarian aid organizations told Human Rights Watch they plan to close hospitals and reduce operations. Workers with the organizations also told the New York-based watchdog they are running low on medical supplies.

"All donors have been cutting aid. ... We closed some mobile teams because donors cut aid. We may need to close 10 major hospitals in the next six months," an official with an international aid organization told Human Rights Watch.

The report noted the lack of access to enough food, water and medical supplies has led to increased illness.

"Inadequate access to food, clean water, and healthcare services has also led to a rise in preventable diseases. This has placed a strain on an already struggling health system as it grapples with an increased demand, including greater need for specialized care for people with acute forms of malnutrition," the report stated.