

Syrian Army Shells Terrorists' Positions

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – In response to the terrorists' invasion, the Syrian Army shelled their positions in the de-escalation zone with artillery on Sunday.

The bases of the al-Nusra terrorists and their affiliated militias were targeted in Mashik and Qarqor villages.

The Syrian Army units operating in the western suburbs of Idlib also shelled the terrorists' positions in the Jabal Zawiya area.

In a series of operations against Daesh, the Syrian Army seized a massive amount of weapons left by the terrorists as well.

No knowledge is superior to deep thinking and prudence; no worship or prayers are more sacred than fulfillment of obligations and duties, no religious faith is loftier than feeling ashamed of doing wrong and bearing calamities patiently.

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VOL NO: LV 11965 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Monday, May 1, 2023, Ordibehesht 11, 1402, Shawwal 10, 1444

Iraq Resistance: U.S. Occupation Troops Legitimate Target in West Asia

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – A high-ranking official with the 'Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba', part of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), has denounced the U.S. military presence in the Arab country, saying the American soldiers are a legitimate target in West Asia as long as they overstay on Iraqi soil.

Nasr al-Shammari, the official spokesman for the resistance movement, said his group has not struck a deal with U.S. troops to ease tensions and suspend retaliatory operations against the soldiers. "Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba does not adhere to any political agreement that includes a ceasefire or reduction of tensions with American occupation forces."

"Our official position concerning the deployment of U.S. forces to Iraq has not changed at all. We reiterate once again that the occupation forces are a legitimate target in Iraq and elsewhere across the West Asian region as long as they are present in Iraqi territories,"



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Shammari said.

Meanwhile, Kadhim al-Fartusi, a spokesman for the 'Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada' anti-terror group, said, "Iraqi resistance movements have stopped attacks on U.S. military forces in order to give Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani a chance to arrange affairs in his

cabinet, especially in matters related to economy and social services."

"The [resistance] groups are waiting for Sudani to enact a binding decision by the Iraqi parliament in relation to the expulsion of all foreign forces, mainly U.S. troops, from Iraq."

He said negotiations are currently underway between Sudani and Iraqi resistance factions.

"In case the prime minister fails to oust U.S. troops through diplomatic means, the current calm will not last forever and resistance groups will be ready to drive out the U.S. troops forcibly," Fartusi stated.

While the United States claims it has ended its combat mission in Iraq, some 2,500 U.S. troops still remain inside the Arab country. Pressured by the Iraqi people, U.S. President Joe Biden and Iraq's then Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi declared in July 2021 that the U.S. mission in Iraq would transition from combat to an "advisory" role by the end of that year.

Anti-American sentiments have soared in Iraq over U.S. military adventurism in the region.

Iraqi lawmakers have unanimously approved a bill that required the government to end the presence of all U.S.-led foreign military forces in the Arab country.

Documents: China Resumes Construction of Military Base in UAE, Ignoring U.S. Objections

ABU DHABI (MEMO) – China has resumed construction work on a military base in the United Arab Emirates in defiance of the United States, leaked intelligence documents have revealed.

According to the Washington Post, leaked U.S. intelligence documents that it obtained reportedly show that Chinese plans to continue construction in its military base in the UAE have gone ahead.

The suspected Chinese military facility at Khalifa port near Abu

Dhabi is part of plans to create a global network of military facilities at ports across the Middle East, south-east Asia, and Africa by 2030, labeled 'project 141.'

The reported continuation of the build-up of that base comes after the works there were forced to halt in 2021 due to U.S. objections. According to the outlet, however, U.S. intelligence detected the resumed construction in December, a mere year after it was apparently halted.

U.S. intelligence continues to

monitor Chinese activity at the base and at other locations in the UAE, the documents reportedly show, amid concerns that the Persian Gulf state is drawing ever closer to China.

The revelation is predicted to likely further alarm the U.S. government, with the paper highlighting that the presence of Chinese officials at several sensitive military sites has particularly raised concern amongst U.S. intelligence, especially at a time when Washington's allies across

the Middle East and Persian Gulf continue to strengthen ties with Beijing.

In that regional shift, the UAE, as well as others such as Saudi Arabia, have increasingly been acting in contradiction to American foreign policy interests, even to the point of directly snubbing U.S. concerns with regards to issues such as ties with China and Russia, the refusal to support Ukraine, and the insistence on imposing cuts on oil production.

UN Chief, Envoys in Key Talks on Afghanistan Crisis

DOHA (AFP) – UN chief Antonio Guterres is set to gather international envoys at a secret location in Doha in an increasingly desperate bid to find ways to influence Afghanistan's Taliban rulers.

Considered the world's biggest humanitarian crisis by the United Nations, Guterres' quandary has been deepened by the Taliban administration's move to stop girls going to school and most women from working, even for UN agencies.

The Taliban government, which took back power in August 2021, will be absent from the talks with representatives from about 25 countries and international organizations, according to diplomats.

Ahead of the talks, a small group of women staged a protest in Kabul to oppose any international recognition of the Taliban government. But the UN and Western powers are adamant this will not be discussed.

"Any kind of recognition of the Taliban is completely off the table," said U.S. State Department spokesman Vedant Patel.

But apart from confirming that the Taliban leadership is not on the list of participants, the UN has refused to say where in the Qatar capital the talks are being held, or who will join Guterres.

The UN secretary-general is to give an update on a review of the world body's critical relief operation in Afghanistan, ordered in April after the authorities there stopped Afghan women

working with UN agencies, diplomats said.

The UN has said it faces an "appalling choice" over whether to maintain its huge operation in the country of 38 million.

Torn apart over the Ukraine war and other global tensions, the UN Security Council powers united on Thursday to condemn the curbs on Afghan women and girls and urge all countries to seek "an urgent reversal" of the policies.

The Afghan foreign ministry rejected the call and said the ban "is an internal social matter of Afghanistan".

Richard Gowan, UN expert for the International Crisis Group, an independent NGO, said the UN is "in a trap over Afghanistan".

"Guterres has to untangle a very complicated knot. He needs to find a way to keep aid flowing into Afghanistan, but the Taliban ban on women is a huge blow to the UN's ability to operate in the country."

Gowan said the international community wants the UN to maintain its critical presence.

"There are lots of differences among Security Council members over Afghanistan. But everyone, including Russia and China, agrees it is better to have the UN in Kabul than not."

The United Nations has given few indications of what proposals could be made at the meeting.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Friday the aim "is to reinvigorate international engagement around common objectives for a durable way forward on Afghanistan".

The global body also wants "unity or commonality of message" on women's and human rights, countering terrorism and drug trafficking.

Election Campaign in Turkey Nears Home Stretch

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dived Sunday into the final two-week stretch before a momentous election that has turned into a referendum on his two decades of transformative rule.

The 69-year-old leader looked fighting fit as he strutted back on stage after a three-day illness and tossed flowers to rapturous crowds at an Istanbul aviation fest on Saturday.

It was the perfect venue for reminding Turks of all they had gained since his party ended years of secular rule and launched an era of economic revival and military might.

Istanbul itself has become a modern and chaotic megalopolis that has nearly doubled in size since Erdogan came to power in 2003.

The nation of 85 million appears as splintered as ever about whether Erdogan has done more harm than good in the only country.

Polls show him running neck-and-neck against secular opposition leader

Kemal Kilicdaroglu and his alliance of six disparate parties.

The entry of two minor candidates means that Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu will likely face each other again in a runoff on May 28.

But some of Erdogan's more hawkish ministers are sounding warnings about Washington leading Western efforts to undermine Turkey's might through the polls.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu referred Friday to U.S. President Joe Biden's 2019 suggestion that Washington should embolden the opposition "to take on and defeat Erdogan".

"July 15 was their actual coup attempt," Soylu said of a failed 2016 military putsch that Erdogan blamed on a U.S.-based preacher.

"And May 14 is their political coup attempt."

Erdogan continues to be lionized across more conservative swathes of Turkey for bringing modern homes and jobs to millions of people through

Suicide Cases Soaring Among Zionist Troops, Military Chief 'Extremely Concerned'



A recent report revealed that suicide cases among Zionist army personnel continue to increase at an alarming rate.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The chief of general staff of the Israeli military has expressed concern over an alarming increase in suicide cases among Zionist troops and ordered more efforts by relevant authorities to deal with the issue.

According to a report published by the Israeli public broadcaster KAN, lieutenant general Herzi Halavi described the soaring increase in suicide cases among Zionist troops as a "dangerous and daunting" challenge for the regime's armed forces. He instructed military authorities to come up with a plan to put an end to the phenomenon.

KAN highlighted that the occupying regime recorded a sharp increase in suicide cases among its military forces last year, and the chief of general staff of the Israeli military has, for this reason, ordered the allocation of more resources and forces in order to deal with the issue.

The regime's media reported that three Zionist troops have taken their lives since the beginning of the current month, of whom two committed suicide last week.

According to the Palestine Today news agency, suicide is still the leading cause of death within the ranks of the Israeli army in non-combat situations, and the number

has soared dramatically in recent years.

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

The Zionist regime's military saw an increase in the number of soldiers killed in uniform over the past year — 44 compared to the previous year's 31 — as well as a rise in the number of suicides, according to statistics released by the army earlier this year.

Suicide remained the leading cause of death, with at least 14 soldiers believed to have taken their own lives in 2022, compared to 11 in the previous year.

Most of the suicides in the occupying regime's military last year were conscripted male troops, Brigadier General Yoram Knafo, chief of staff of the army's Manpower Directorate, told reporters. He said two of the 14 cases were lone soldiers, troops who either do not have family in the occupied territories or are not supported by their families there.

The military also noted a significant rise in the number of severely injured troops in 2022, with 158, compared to 92 in 2021.

construction and state investment.

Turkey is now filled with hospitals and interconnected with airports and highways that stimulate trade and give the vast country a more inclusive feel.

He empowered conservative women by enabling them to stay veiled in school and in civil service -- a right that did not exist in the secular state created from the Ottoman Empire's ashes in 1923.

Erdogan resumed campaigning for the upcoming presidential election after a days-long pause due to illness, accusing his main rival Kilicdaroglu of cooperating with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

During his speech in Izmir, Erdogan referred to the Qandil Mountains in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region, where PKK bases are located.

"What does Qandil say? We vote for Kilicdaroglu. Qandil, Qandil... What is Qandil? The heads of the terrorist organization are there," he said.