

Iraq to Announce Results of Assassination Probe

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- An Iraqi politician says all judicial procedures are underway in Baghdad regarding the assassination of top Iranian anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani and his companions, adding that the results of the investigation will be announced soon.

Jabbar Odeh, a member of Iraq's Coordination Framework Alliance, said the U.S., the occupying regime of Israel and their mercenaries have been directly involved in the assassination of General Soleimani and Muhandis near Baghdad international airport.

Kayhan International



Japan to Open NATO Office in Tokyo

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- Japan is working towards the opening of a NATO liaison office in Tokyo, Japan's ambassador to the U.S. Koji Tomita said on Tuesday.

Tomita made the comment at an event hosted by the National Press Club in Washington when asked about a report in the Nikkei Asia this month saying that the U.S.-led alliance was planning to open such an office, its first in Asia, to facilitate consultations in the region.

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No Place for Outsiders in Regional Security Efforts



China Expels Canadian Diplomat in Tit-for-Tat Move



Soltani Wins Gold Medal in Asian Weightlifting Championships



Zionists Emigrate to Athens Amid Housing, Political Crisis



UK Police Face Legal Action Over Coronation Crackdown

LONDON (AP) — An anti-monarchy group says it plans to take legal action against London's Metropolitan Police after several of its members were arrested as they prepared to protest the coronation of King Charles III.

Civil liberties groups are accusing the police, and Britain's Conservative government, of stifling the right to protest with new powers to clamp down on peaceful but disruptive demonstrations.

The police force expressed "regret" late Monday that the activists were prevented from protesting, but defended its handling of the coronation, which drew hundreds of thousands of people into the streets of London — hundreds of protesters among them.

Police arrested 64 people around Saturday's coronation, most for allegedly planning to disrupt the ceremonies. Four have been charged, most have been released on bail, and six members of anti-monarchist group Republic have been freed and told they will not face any charges.

Republic chief executive Graham Smith said three senior police officers had come to his house and apologized in person for the arrest that saw him held in custody for 16 hours.

"I said for the record I won't accept the apology," Smith said, adding that the group "will be taking action."

The UK's recently passed Public Order Act, introduced in response to civil disobedience by environmental groups, allows police to search demonstrators for items including locks and glue

and imposes penalties of up to 12 months in prison for protesters who block roads or interfere with "national infrastructure."

Police said the Republic members had items that could be used to "lock on" to infrastructure. Republic said the items were ties for their placards and police acknowledged its "investigation has been unable to prove intent to use them to lock on and disrupt the event."

"We regret that those six people arrested were unable to join the wider group of protesters in Trafalgar Square and elsewhere on the procession route," police said.

The Conservative government defended police handling of the protests, London Mayor Sadiq Khan, a member of the Labour Party, requested "further clarity" from the force. He said the right to peaceful protest is an integral part of democracy.

Conservative lawmaker David Davis said the new powers of arrest were too broad.

"No-one wants a day ruined, but the right to put up placards is virtually absolute in British democracy," he told the BBC on Tuesday.

The Metropolitan Police force is already under intense pressure after a series of scandals involving its treatment of women and minorities. Confidence in the force plummeted after a serving officer raped and killed a young woman in London in 2020.

An independent review commissioned after the murder said the force was riddled with racism, misogyny and homophobia.

Zionist Atrocities Open Gates of Hell

Islamic Jihad Commanders Assassinated



The combination photo shows Islamic Jihad commanders and children martyred in Tuesday airstrikes by the occupying regime of Israel.

GAZA (Dispatches) -- The occupying regime of Israel's military martyred 15 Palestinians, including three Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) commanders along with their wives and children, in an overnight attack on the Gaza Strip.

A total of 40 fighter jets participated in bombing different locations in the besieged enclave just after 2am local time on Tuesday, according to the Zionist military.

The Palestinian health ministry said at least four children, four women, a dentist and his family were among those martyred. Another 20 people were wounded, including three children and seven women, some

of whom are in a serious and critical condition.

Three commanders in the Al-Quds Brigades, the military branch of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, were martyred along with their families in the bombardment.

They were identified by the PIJ as Jihad Ghannam, Al-Quds Brigades's general secretary, Khalil al-Bahitini, a northern Gaza commander, and Tareq Izzeldeen, a military commander.

Two more Palestinians were martyred in a fresh Israeli airstrike in Khan Yunis later Tuesday.

The Gaza health ministry said the two men were killed

in the attack on their vehicle.

The Zionist military claimed in a Twitter post that the strike had targeted a squad carrying anti-tank guided missiles in the city.

The Islamic Jihad is considered the second-largest resistance movement in the Gaza Strip behind Hamas, which governs the enclave.

The group said in a statement that a response to the Israeli aggression "will not take long".

"The bombardment will be met by bombardment and the attack will be met by an attack," said Islamic Jihad spokesperson Tareq Selmi. "This crime will not pass unpunished."

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, who is based in Qatar, said: "Assassination of leaders will not bring the occupation security but more resistance."

The Joint Operations Room (JOR), an umbrella body of armed factions in Gaza including Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, said in a statement that the occupying regime of Israel "will pay the price" for the attack.

Zionist war minister Yoav Gallant said that the military, working with the Shin Bet intelligence service, targeted the leadership of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza in a "precise" operation. Shortly after the airstrikes, the Israeli military acknowledged the attack.

In fear of reprisal attacks from Palestinian groups, occupied cities near the fence with Gaza opened public bomb shelters and dozens of families evacuated their homes, moving to other parts of the occupied territories.

Roads near Gaza and beaches in the southern cities of Ashkelon and Ashdod have been closed.

In a brief statement, the Palestinian health ministry mourned Israel's killing of Jamal Khaswan, a well-known dentist and the chairman of Al-Wafa Hospital's board of directors.

He was martyred with his wife, Merfat Khaswan, and their child, Yousef Khaswan.

"The Ministry of Health mourns with great sadness Dr Jamal Khaswan, who was martyred at dawn today, alongside his wife and son, as a result of the brutal Zionist attack on Gaza City," the statement said.

"Dr Khaswan was a man of great patriotic and medical dedication."

The UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland condemned the "unacceptable" killing of civilians.

"I condemn the deaths of civilians in the Israeli airstrikes. This is unacceptable," Wennesland said.

The attack comes a week after a brief exchange of fire between the occupying regime of Israel and Palestinian groups in Gaza left one Palestinian killed and two Israelis wounded.

It followed the death of prominent Palestinian hunger striker Khader Adnan, who was a member of the Islamic Jihad in the occupied West Bank.

The Tuesday airstrikes were the largest attack mounted by the Zionist regime against Gaza since August last year, when the military assassinated senior PIJ commander Taiseer al-Jabari, triggering a three-day exchange of fire.

At least 49 Palestinians were martyred in the 2022 Israeli bombardment, including 17 children, and 360 others were wounded.

More than two million Palestinians are packed into Gaza, one of the world's most densely populated areas. Under blockade by Israel since 2006, the besieged coastal enclave has been described as "the world's largest open-air prison".

The occupying regime of Israel withdrew its troops from the strip in 2005 but maintains tight control of Gaza's airspace, land and sea borders, which has reduced its economy to a state of collapse.

"There is no voice more sonorous than that of the resistance front," Nablus-based

World Countries Scramble to Regulate AI

LONDON (AP) — The breathtaking development of artificial intelligence has dazzled users by composing music, creating images and writing essays, while also raising fears about its implications. Even European Union officials working on groundbreaking rules to govern the emerging technology were caught off guard by AI's rapid rise.

The 27-nation bloc proposed the Western world's first AI rules two years ago, focusing on reining in risky but narrowly focused applications. General purpose AI systems like chatbots were barely mentioned. Lawmakers working on the AI Act considered whether to include them but weren't sure how, or even if it was necessary.

"Then ChatGPT kind of boom, exploded," said Dragos Tudorache, a Romanian member of the European Parliament co-leading the measure. "If there was still some that doubted as to whether

we need something at all, I think the doubt was quickly vanished."

The release of ChatGPT last year captured the world's attention because of its ability to generate human-like responses based on what it has learned from scanning vast amounts of online materials. With concerns emerging, European lawmakers moved swiftly in recent weeks to add language on general AI systems as they put the finishing touches on the legislation.

The EU's AI Act could become the de facto global standard for artificial intelligence, with companies and organizations potentially deciding that the sheer size of the bloc's single market would make it easier to comply than develop different products for different regions.

"Europe is the first regional bloc to significantly attempt to regulate AI, which is a huge challenge considering the wide range of

systems that the broad term 'AI' can cover," said Sarah Chander, senior policy adviser at digital rights group EDRi.

Authorities worldwide are scrambling to figure out how to control the rapidly evolving technology to ensure that it improves people's lives without threatening their rights or safety. Regulators are concerned about new ethical and societal risks posed by ChatGPT and other general purpose AI systems, which could transform daily life, from jobs and education to copyright and privacy.

The White House recently brought in the heads of tech companies working on AI including Microsoft, Google and ChatGPT creator OpenAI to discuss the risks, while the Federal Trade Commission has warned that it wouldn't hesitate to crack down.

China has issued draft regulations mandating security assessments for any products us-

ing generative AI systems like ChatGPT. Britain's competition watchdog has opened a review of the AI market, while Italy briefly banned ChatGPT over a privacy breach.

The EU's sweeping regulations — covering any provider of AI services or products — are expected to be approved by a European Parliament committee Thursday, then head into negotiations between the 27 member countries, Parliament and the EU's executive Commission.

European rules influencing the rest of the world — the so-called Brussels effect — previously played out after the EU tightened data privacy and mandated common phone-charging cables, though such efforts have been criticized for stifling innovation.

Attitudes could be different this time. Tech leaders including Elon Musk and Apple co-founder

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