

BAGHDAD (Xinhua) – Iraq registered up to 119 cases of viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHF), including 18 deaths, since the beginning of this year, the Iraqi Ministry of Health says.

The ministry's spokesman Sayf al-Badr told the official Iraqi News Agency that 35 of the detected VHF cases were registered in the southern Dhi Qar province, followed by Basra with 18 cases, and the rest are spread across the other provinces. Al-Badr added that six of the 18 deaths by the infectious disease were registered in Dhi Qar, followed by the southern province of al-Muthanna with three deaths.

If you do a good deed then thank Allah for it and if you commit a sin then repent and atone for it. In this world there is a real welfare for two kinds of people, one is the person who, when commits a sin, atones for it and the other is anxious to do good as much as possible.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Zionist Troops Fire on Palestinians Protesting 'Flag March' in Gaza

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have used live fire and tear gas against Palestinians who joined a demonstration on the besieged Gaza Strip's east, injuring several Palestinians, as far-right Zionists held a so-called 'flag march' in occupied East Al-Quds' Old City.

Hundreds of Palestinians joined the protest, which was called for by Palestinian factions in response to the Zionist march. The Gaza demonstration condemned the 'flag march' in Al-Quds, and called for an end to the regime's attacks in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.



Palestinians in Gaza join a march, protesting the settler flag march in Al-Quds.

Osama Abu Qamar, a 50-year-old resident of Gaza's Jabaliya camp, told Al Jazeera that he had come to participate in the march to protest against the provocative march in Al-Quds, where far-right Zionists forced the closure of several Palestinian thoroughfares in the city as they chanted abusive

slogans and waved Zionist flags. The event, which is held annually to mark the occupation and annexation of East Al-Quds, has led to violence in recent years. Similar protests were also held in the occupied West Bank city of

Nablus in support of Al-Quds. The annual flag march marks the Zionist regime's occupation of the West Bank and Al-Quds in 1967. It is organized by far-right settlers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Al-Quds.

The march is also an attempt by Zionist settlers to slam what they call the Tel Aviv regime's failure to deal with the Palestinians and affirm their presence in the occupied Palestinian city and its holy sites.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) earlier warned that holding the demonstration would fuel tensions in the occupied territories and Israel will be fully responsible for any possible escalation.

A spokesman for the Islamic Jihad movement also said the regime cannot defeat Palestinians through these measures.

He said the Palestinians' fight against the regime won't stop unless Israel is wiped off the map.

Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the Hamas resistance movement, commented on the issue as well.

He said the regime's massive deployment of security forces to Al-Quds shows it is fearful of acts of resistance by Palestinians.

Report: U.S. Drone Strike in Syria Raises Doubts About Accuracy of Strike



The moments after a U.S. strike killed Lotfi Hassan Misto, 56, on May 3, in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – A man killed in a U.S. drone strike in northwestern Syria earlier this month may not have been a senior Al-Qaeda leader, as previously claimed by the Pentagon, the Washington Post has reported.

U.S. officials, cited by the Post, expressed uncertainty about the target of the attack. The Pentagon has declined to disclose the name of the individual. However, relatives and neighbors of the victim assert that he had no affiliation with the militants.

Unnamed officials cited in the Post article cast doubts on the accuracy of the strike, which took place in a rural area of Idlib Province on May 3.

"We are no longer confident we killed a senior AQ official," one official stated, referring to Al-Qaeda. The second official added, "Though we believe the strike did not kill the original target, we believe the person to be Al-Qaeda."

According to the Post, residents of the Syrian village targeted in the U.S. strike identified the victim as Lotfi Hassan Misto, a 56-year-old farmer and father of 10. They informed the newspaper that Misto was tending to his flock

of sheep when he was killed by a Hellfire missile. Family members and neighbors adamantly deny any connection between Misto and any militant group. Misto's brother told the Post, "If they claim that he's a terrorist, or that they got someone from Al-Qaeda, they're all liars."

In response to the report, U.S. Central Command spokesman Michael Lawhorn stated that the military takes such allegations seriously and is investigating whether the action unintentionally harmed civilians. When provided with coordinates indicating the strike's location near Misto's home and chicken farm, an unnamed defense official referred to it as a "known area of interest" to Al-Qaeda. However, local residents disputed this assertion, asserting that terrorists do not reside or operate in close proximity to Misto's residence.

The Pentagon previously acknowledged that a similar drone strike in Kabul in 2021 was a "tragic mistake." Initially, the U.S. claimed to have killed a high-level Daesh militant, but later admitted that the raid resulted in the deaths of 10 civilians.

U.S. Legislation Aims to Block Charities From Funding Zionist Settlements

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A New York State assembly member has introduced legislation to stop charities from sending millions of dollars to the occupied territories to support settlement activity, as Zionist settlements have been deemed illegal under international law.

The legislation, "Not on our dime!: Ending New York Funding of Israeli Settler Violence Act," was introduced by state assembly member Zohran Mamdani, the third Muslim in the New York State assembly.

The legislation would give the state attorney general authority to sue and dissolve not-for-profit organizations that are found to be using their tax-deductible donations to support organizations

funding illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

It would also give Palestinians harmed by settler organizations funded by New York-based charities the right to seek damages in American courts.

"Charities registered in New York State currently send more than \$60 million dollars a year in tax-deductible donations to aid and abet Israeli settlements. This is done on our dime as New Yorkers," Mamdani told Middle East Eye.

"This legislation puts an end to that and makes explicit that subsidizing violence and activities outlawed by the Geneva Convention is not, and should not be considered, charitable giving. It's past time for New York to

catch up to international law."

He said that while this issue is important to him as a Muslim, as his faith informs his fight to ensure justice for all people, this is not a bill motivated by religion.

"It is a bill motivated by a desire that New York State stop subsidizing human rights violations through the conferring of charitable status to organizations such as these," he said.

"Too often, we see an exception drawn when it comes to Palestine - whether it be in our policies or the application of them. This makes it clear that our belief in human rights is universal, without exception."

The Central Fund of Israel, an organization registered in New York, is one of the most signifi-

cant sources of support, sending millions annually to the Zionist regime.

In 2019, the UN special coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process said that Zionist settlement activities are "a flagrant violation under international law".

In February, the occupying regime granted retroactive authorization to nine settler outposts in the occupied West Bank and announced the construction of new homes within established settlements.

The UN Security Council then issued a formal statement condemning the regime's plan to expand settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, after the United States made a rare decision to support the motion.

Egypt 'Disappears' Former Student Leader, Prompting Calls for Probe

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – Egyptian security forces forcibly disappeared a former student leader from his home in Cairo last week, according to his legal representatives, prompting calls by rights groups and his family for an investigation and news on his whereabouts.

Moaz al-Sharqawi was taken by authorities from his residence in the Mokattam neighborhood of the Egyptian capital on 11 May.

His location remains unknown to his family and lawyers, who have not been able to communicate with him, according to the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), which is legally representing Sharqawi.

His lawyers said they confirmed that he was not at Mokattam police station or the local prosecutor's office.

The EIPR wrote to the public prosecutor's office accusing the interior ministry of forcibly disappearing him.

Several rights groups signed a letter this week calling for Sharqawi's immediate release, along with other political prisoners.

"His abduction and disappearance represent a grave danger to his life and safety, and further indicates the absence of political will in Egypt to guarantee human rights for all," they wrote.

The signatories included the Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms and El Nadeem Centre.

Sharqawi has been imprisoned before due to his role as a leader at the student union of Tanta University.

He was arrested in September 2018 and subjected to 25 days of enforced disappearance, during which he was tortured, according to EIPR.

The former student was held in pre-trial de-

tention for around a year-and-a-half, before being released in 2020.

In May 2022, he was issued a 10-year prison sentence on charges of joining a terrorist group, in a case in which several other political detainees were also sentenced.

Among them was Abdel Moneim Aboul-Fotouh, a former presidential candidate.

EIPR said that Sharqawi's sentence was "not final or enforceable", and a grievance sent by lawyers to the military governor was still under consideration.

In August, the UN working group on enforced disappearances wrote a memorandum to the Egyptian government raising Sharqawi's case.

Egypt regularly uses accusations of support or financing of "terrorism" to hold activists and opposition figures for as long as possible in pre-trial detention, and to subsequently sentence them.

UN Representative in Iraq Warns of Water Crisis

NEW YORK (Shafaq News) – UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, has issued a warning that the country will be unable to secure 15% of its water needs in the coming decade.

Speaking at a session of the United Nations Security Council dedicated to Iraq, monitored by Shafaq News Agency, Hennis-Plasschaert stated that "90% of the rivers in Iraq are polluted due to drought and water scarcity."

She added, "By 2035, Iraq will only be able to meet

15% of its water requirements," emphasizing that "seven million people in Iraq are struggling to access water."

For several years, Iraq has been facing a severe water crisis due to limited water revenues from upstream countries and insufficient rainfall. This has led to a significant decrease in the water levels of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The crisis has reached its peak in the past three years, resulting in the drying up of several rivers and marshlands throughout the country.