

Yemen's Warring Sides Swap 52 Bodies of Fighters

ADEN (Xinhua) – A local mediation committee in Yemen has announced that it has successfully facilitated an exchange of 52 bodies of fighters between the Saudi-backed mercenaries and militants and Sana'a-based government. Hadi Jumaan, leader of the tribal mediation committee, said in a brief press statement that under the auspices of local tribal figures, representatives from the both sides met at a neutral location in the country's northern province of al-Jawf and exchanged 52 bodies from both sides. While expressing gratitude for members of the mediation committee, Jumaan emphasized the power of local initiatives in fostering reconciliation.

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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EU Accused of 'Staggering Neglect' After Just 271 Afghans Resettled



Migrants in transit, mostly from Afghanistan, rest in a tent near the railway station in Rijeka on the Adriatic coast in western Croatia on Feb. 6, 2023.

LONDON (The Guardian) – Just 271 Afghans were resettled in the EU in 2022, 0.1% of the 270,000 identified as in need of permanent protection, it has emerged.

Leading charity the International Rescue Committee accused EU leaders of "staggering neglect" of Afghan refugees with many remaining trapped in "prison-like" conditions on Greek islands.

In a damning report, the International Rescue Committee claims EU member states have "consis-

tently" failed to deliver on legal resettlement promises leaving many Afghans who do reach the EU borders "vulnerable" all over again.

It claims that not a single person has arrived under a scheme established in Germany in 2021 to resettle up to 1,000 Afghans a month, while Italy has taken just half the refugees it promised.

Between 2021 and 2022, about 41,500 Afghans at risk were admitted to the EU, many through

ad hoc emergency evacuations in August 2021.

"While the IRC welcomes each of these efforts, this response remains vastly insufficient," the IRC reports said.

Some countries have not taken any Afghans at all since Kabul fell and the country was taken over by the Taliban, according to its report. Two years on Afghans still lack pathways to safety in the EU.

Many remain "trapped in remote

and prison-like conditions" in camps on Greek islands "preventing their inclusion into local communities and devastating their mental health", said the report.

The authors also found that more than 90% of the Afghans supported by the IRC's mental health teams in Lesbos and Athens experienced symptoms of anxiety, and 86% of depression, in the year to March 2023.

David Miliband, head of the International Rescue Committee, said, "This report highlights staggering neglect of Afghans by the member states of the European Union, which puts them at risk at every step of their journeys in search of protection."

"While some states' well-intentioned plans to bring Afghans to safety have hit repeated delays and obstacles, other countries have failed to make any pledges at all, or to guarantee adequate protection and inclusion for the tiny proportion of Afghan refugees who manage to reach Europe."

He said the welcome EU member states showed to more than 8 million people fleeing Ukraine showed its capacity to deliver.

"There is simply no excuse for treating Afghans, and refugees forced from their homes elsewhere, any differently".

U.S. Deploys HIMARS Missile System in Eastern Syria



The HIMARS missile system was sent to U.S. forces in Dayr al-Zawr province in the past few days, Anadolu news agency quoted the sources as saying.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The United States has deployed a HIMARS missile system to its occupying forces stationed near oil fields in eastern Syria, local sources have reported.

According to the sources cited by Anadolu, the HIMARS missile system was sent to U.S. forces in Dayr al-Zawr province in the past few days.

Dayr al-Zawr, situated east of the Euphrates River, is currently occupied by Kurdish militia groups.

"The missile system was sent to the American bases in al-Omar oilfield and Conoco gas plant," the sources revealed.

Since March 2011, Syria has been engulfed in a conflict fueled by foreign-backed militancy. Throughout this period, Western governments and their regional allies have supported terrorist groups that have caused extensive damage in the Arab country.

The U.S. military has maintained a presence in northeastern Syria for an extended period, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment aims to prevent the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

The Syrian government has repeatedly stated that the U.S. deployment is a means to exploit the

country's natural resources. Former U.S. president Donald Trump openly acknowledged on multiple occasions that American forces were in Syria for its oil wealth.

Meanwhile, Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya accused the United States of creating a so-called Free Syria Army near the city of Raqqah with the intention of using militants to destabilize the country.

Nebenzya made the remark during a United Nations Security Council meeting, stating, "According to our data, Washington has begun to create a free Syria army near Raqqah out of local Arab tribes, Daesh terrorists, and other terrorist organizations."

The Russian diplomat emphasized that these actions clearly indicate the U.S.'s intent to employ these militants against Syria's legitimate authorities and disrupt the situation in the country.

Additionally, Sergey Naryshkin, the Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), accused the U.S. of obstructing the normalization of Syria's relations with the Arab world. Naryshkin also stated that the U.S. is training militants of the Daesh terrorist organization at its Syrian base to destabilize Syria.

5 Palestinians Killed in Lebanon Blast Blamed on Zionist Regime

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC) has blamed the Zionist regime for the killing of five of its members in a blast in eastern Lebanon, near the Syrian border.

Anwar Raja, a PFLP-GC official, said a Zionist strike on Wednesday hit positions in the Lebanese town of Qusaya. He

said 10 people were wounded, of which two were in critical condition.

However, unnamed sources with the Zionist regime told news agencies that the regime was not involved in the attack.

"An old rocket exploded in an arms depot on the base and five fighters were killed," a Lebanese security source told AFP.

Back in August 2019, suspected strikes by the Zionist regime targeted the PFLP-GC in Qusaya.

In July 2015, a security official also reported a blast at the PFLP-GC base in Qusaya, saying seven people were wounded, while the Palestinian group blamed it on an Israeli strike.

The PFLP-GC was founded in 1968 after splitting from the simi-

larly named Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

It has close ties to Lebanon's Hezbollah group as well as the Syrian government, and has bases in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley as well as in al-Naameh, just south of Beirut.

Its founder, Ahmed Jibril, was based in Damascus until he died in 2021.

UN: Yemen Operation to Empty 'Safer' Oil Tanker Set to Begin

DUBAI (Reuters) – Operations to salvage 1.1 million barrels of oil from a decaying tanker moored off Yemen's coast will soon begin after a technical support ship arrived on site on Tuesday, the United Nations said.

UN officials have been warning for years that the Red Sea and Yemen's coastline was at risk as the Safer tanker could spill four times as much oil as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster off Alaska.

The Ndeavor tanker, with a technical team from Boskalis/SMIT, is in place at the Safer tanker off the coast of Yemen's Ras Isa, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen David Gressley said on Twitter from on board the Ndeavor.

The Saudi-led war in Yemen caused suspension of maintenance operations on the Safer in 2015.

The UN has warned its structural integrity has significantly deteriorated and it is at risk of exploding.

The UN launched a fundraising drive, even starting a crowdfunding campaign, to raise the \$129 million needed to remove the oil from the Safer and transfer it to a replacement tanker, the Nautica, which set sail from China in early April.

The salvage operation cannot be paid for by the sale of the oil because it is not clear who owns it, the UN has said.

"Work at sea will start very soon. Additional funding is still important to finish the process," the UN said on its Yemen Twitter account.

Saudi Arabia started a war against Yemen in March 2015, enlisting the assistance of some of its allies, including the United Arab Emir-

ates.

The war, which has enjoyed generous arms, logistical, and political support from the United States and several other Western governments, has been seeking to restore power in Yemen to the country's former Riyadh- and Washington-friendly government.

The former Yemeni government's president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi resigned from the presidency in late 2014 and later fled to Riyadh amid a political conflict with Ansarullah. The movement has been running Yemen's affairs in the absence of a functioning administration.

The war has, meanwhile, killed tens of thousands of Yemenis and turned entire Yemen into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Zionist Regime's NSO Has New Owners, But Espionage Continues

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's cyber company NSO Group, owner of controversial Pegasus spying software, is under new ownership, but it continues to spy on international activists and officials, Arab48 has reported.

Two and half years after it was blacklisted by the U.S. administration and despite many complaints against it by activist groups and officials, NSO continues operating and spying on people.

However, the Wall Street Journal reported that it has been forced to restructure by its lenders.

"The Israeli cybersecurity company blacklisted by the U.S.

for its sale of hacking tools to authoritarian regimes, is under new ownership after lenders forced a change of control with plans to keep its controversial spyware business going," the Wall Street Journal reported.

Novalpina Capital private equity fund bought the NSO Group in 2019 for about \$1 billion, the Washington Post reported, noting that this might have happened due to financial issues, lack of paying debts, undisclosed legal prosecutions or other reasons.

The company's creditors, Credit Suisse and Senate Investment Group, foreclosed on NSO earlier this year, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The new owner is a Luxembourg-based holding firm called Dufresne Holdings controlled by NSO co-founder Omri Lavie, according to the newspaper report. Corporate filings now list Dufresne Holdings as the sole shareholder of NSO parent company NorthPole.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Dufresne Holdings has removed "a number of directors and officers" across NSO and is involved in the company's day-to-day management.

The Register reported an NSO spokesperson saying: "The company is managed directly by our CEO, Yaron Shohat. The lenders are currently in a process of restructuring the shareholders."