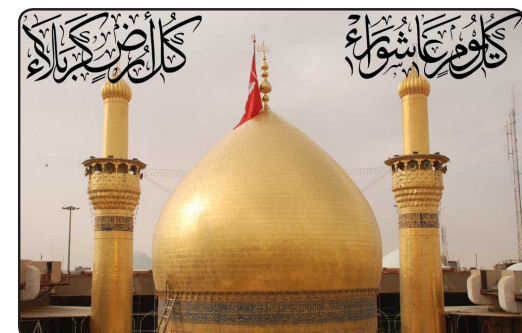


**Four Policemen Martyred in Terrorist Attack**  
 TEHRAN -- At least four road police patrol officers were martyred in a terrorist attack in Zahedan in Iran's southeast, Tasnim news agency said on Sunday.  
 A judicial order has been issued to arrest the perpetrators, Tasnim reported. Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchistan province, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, is one of Iran's major drug trafficking routes. "Today, attackers ambushed the police car... and shot at the vehicle," Tasnim report added.

# Kayhan International



VOL NO: LV 12032 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Monday, July 24, 2023, Mordad 2, 1402, Muharram 6, 1445, Price 300,000 Rials

**Viewpoint**  
**Yemen's Unity Will Thwart US-Zionist Designs in the Region**

**Iran Eyes Better Balkan Ties as Serbian Speaker Visits**

**Iranian Men's Karate Kumite Team Crowned in Asia**

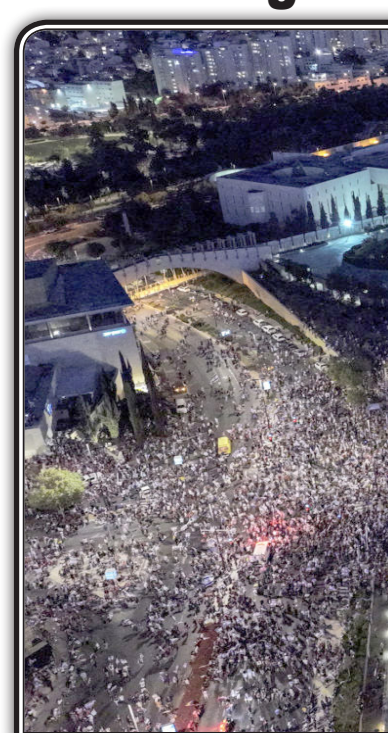
**U.S. Military Continues to Plunder Syrian Resources**

## Thousands Flee Raging Wildfires in Greece

ATHENS (AFP) -- Locals and tourists fled hotspots on the Greek island of Rhodes on Sunday, as firefighters, backed by water jets and helicopters, battled a blaze that sparked the country's largest-ever fire evacuation.  
 Wind gusts of up to 49 kilometers (31 miles) per hour were complicating efforts to bring the flames under control.  
 The island of Rhodes is one of Greece's most popular tourist destinations, particularly with British, German and French tourists -- many of whom were being rapidly moved out of the path of the flames.  
 As Greece has been battered by an extended spell of extreme heat, flames have burned for nearly a week on the island. Temperatures, which reached 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in central Greece on Sunday, were expected to dip on Monday before the mercury rises again for another four-day heatwave.  
 "This is the biggest fire evacuation ever in Greece," Konstantia Dimoglidou, Greek police spokeswoman told AFP. "We had to evacuate an area of 30,000 people."  
 Police said that authorities had transported some 16,000 people across land, with 3,000 evacuated by sea, and others fleeing by road or under their own transport after being told to leave the area.  
 German travel giant Tui said it was suspending all of its inbound passenger flights to Rhodes until Tuesday but would fly in empty planes to help evacuate tourists.  
 Spokesperson Linda Jonczyk told AFP that Tui had some 40,000 tourists in Rhodes, of which 7,800 are affected by the fires.  
 The low-cost British carrier Jet2 also said it had cancelled "all flights and holidays" to the island.  
 One German tourist told the Bild daily that they were "saved from the fire at the last moment" after returning from the beach on Saturday to a deserted hotel.  
 "We had embers flying around our heads and no help was in sight," said 23-year-old Paul from Bielefeld.  
 "I had the feeling of being on my own, it was so hot and the smoke was already so thick we couldn't have survived another ten minutes."  
 He said buses then arrived to evacuate the tourists, but some were so panicked they were trying to find boats to escape on from the beach.  
 Authorities have warned that the battle to contain the flames -- raging in the middle of peak tourism season -- will take several days.  
 More than 260 firefighters, backed by 18 aircraft, were battling the fire on Sunday, with Cro-

atia, France, Slovakia and Turkey having contributed equipment and personnel, officials said.  
 Last year Rhodes, which has a population of over 100,000, welcomed some 2.5 million tourist arrivals.  
 The fires reached the village of Laerma during the night, engulfing houses and a church, while many hotels were damaged by flames that had reached to the coast. Authorities evacuated 11 villages overnight as a precaution.  
 On Sunday the blaze was burning along three active fronts -- including on the southeast coast of the island where firefighters tried to prevent the blaze from crossing a creek.  
 Tourists and some locals spent the night in gyms, schools and hotel conference centers on the island.  
 The Greek foreign ministry and embassies in Greece were setting up a station at the Rhodes airport to help tourists that have lost travel documents in the scramble to evacuate.  
 TV footage broadcast by ERT Saturday showed a solo woman carrying her luggage through the smoke, looking disorientated.  
 Firefighters were heard shouting at her: "Madam, your life! Come here! Leave everything behind."  
 A large part of the island was without electricity as the public power utility PPC shut down the local plant in the south for safety reasons.  
 "This is a special fire here because the heart of Rhodes and its environment is affected," Efthymios Lekkas, a professor specializing in natural disasters told ERT TV on Sunday, warning of a severe impact to the island's tourist industry.  
 "I just did a drive from Lindos to Gennadi," he said.  
 "All the big hotels have closed. I don't think they will be able to operate this year because the surrounding area in each unit has been completely destroyed, and the environment is not inspiring for a holiday."  
 The Greek presidency said it was cancelling a national holiday planned for Monday "in view of the extraordinary conditions prevailing in the country due to the fires."  
 A separate wildfire broke out on Greece's second-largest island, Evia, according to the fire services, although it was not near any homes.  
 Evia, situated off central Greece's eastern coast, was devastated last year by some of the worst wildfires in the country's history.  
 Heatwaves across southern Europe and many parts of the world could last until August.

## Hundreds of Thousands Protest Again



**Protesters against the Zionist regime's contentious plan gather in Al-Quds following a march from Tel Aviv, July 22, 2023.**  
 OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands of protesters marched into Al-Quds on Saturday evening and hundreds of thousands took to the streets in Tel Aviv and other cities in a last-ditch show of force aimed at blocking prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's contentious plan to give himself draconian powers.  
 Also, more than 100 of the occupying regime's former security chiefs signed a letter urging Netanyahu to halt the plan, and thousands of additional military

## Netanyahu Rushed to Hospital and Fitted With Pacemaker Crisis Flares in Israel

reservists said they would no longer report for duty.  
 In scorching heat that reached 33 C (91 F), the procession into Al-Quds turned the city's main entrance into a sea of crowds as marchers completed the last leg of a four-day, 70-kilometer (45-mile) trek from Tel Aviv to the Zionist parliament.  
 The marchers, who grew from hundreds to thousands as the march progressed, were welcomed in Al-Quds by throngs of

cheering protesters before they set up camp in rows of small white tents outside the Knesset, or parliament, before Monday's expected vote. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands flooded the streets of the coastal city of Tel Aviv, the occupying entity's business and cultural capital, as well as in Beersheba, Haifa and Netanya.  
 Netanyahu and his far-right allies claim the plan is needed to curb what they say are the exces-

sive powers of unelected judges. But their critics say the plan will destroy the entity's system of checks and balances and put it on the path toward authoritarian rule.  
 U.S. President Joe Biden has urged Netanyahu to halt the plan and seek a broad consensus.  
 The proposed judicial overhaul has drawn harsh criticism from business and medical leaders, and a fast-rising number of military reservists in key units have said they will stop reporting for duty if the plan passes, raising concern that the entity could plunge into a civil war and collapse. An additional 10,000 reservists announced they were suspending duty on Saturday night, according to "Brothers in Arms," a protest group representing retired soldiers.  
 More than 100 top former security chiefs, including retired military commanders, police commissioners and heads of intelligence agencies, joined those calls on Saturday, signing a letter to Netanyahu blaming him for compromising the Zionist regime's military and urging him to halt the legislation.  
 The signatories included Ehud Barak, a former Israeli prime minister, and Moshe Yaalon, a former army chief and war minister. Both are political rivals of Netanyahu.  
 "The legislation is crushing  
 (Continued on Page 7)

## Blood Scandal Dogs UK Government as Hearing Looms

LONDON (PA Media) -- Relatives of victims of the NHS infected blood scandal are to hand in a letter to Downing Street telling Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that "action is needed now" to set up a body to give full compensation.  
 It comes amid complaints the government is dragging its heels over compensation payments and ahead of Sunak and chancellor and former health secretary Jeremy Hunt giving evidence to the Infected Blood Inquiry this month.  
 Jason Evans, 33, was four years old when his father Jonathan, a 31-year-old carpenter from Coventry, died after being infected with hepatitis C and HIV.  
 Evans, who will be among those who will hand in the letter addressed to Sunak on Monday, said that having to personally bring their concerns to Whitehall "totally compounds the trauma and grief" of the survivors and bereaved families who fought for an inquiry and have seen widespread recognition that compensation should be paid.  
 He told PA news agency: "We need action to happen now because people are dying, not just

people infected but the bereaved families as well.  
 "We know that 380 children were infected with HIV, many of those died in childhood, and their parents are now in their 80s.  
 "We know of people who have died only recently.  
 "People are dying without seeing any acknowledgement."  
 The inquiry was established in 2017 to examine how thousands of patients in the UK were infected with HIV and hepatitis C through contaminated blood products in the 1970s and 1980s.  
 About 2,400 people died in what has been labeled the worst treatment disaster in the history of the NHS.  
 Inquiry chairman Sir Brian Langstaff said in April that he was taking the unusual step of publishing the recommendation ahead of the publication of the full report into the scandal so that victims would not face any more delays.  
 Under the initial scheme victims themselves or bereaved partners can receive an interim payment of around £100,000.  
 The letter reminds Sunak that, while he was running last year to

become the Conservative Party leader, he said he would ensure the interim compensation payments recommended by Sir Brian Langstaff are paid without delay.  
 The letter notes that Sunak said at the time: "The contaminated blood scandal is a tragic injustice and we must now match words with action, just as we did with those affected by the Thalidomide scandal.  
 The relatives and survivors want action on interim payments to be made in respect of "deaths not yet recognized".  
 This covers a range of relationships including the unmarried parents of deceased children and also children who were orphaned when both of their parents died.  
 The inquiry has recommended the government establish an arms length compensation body now and definitely before the final report in the autumn.  
 The letter states: "This delay denies victims and their families any sense of tangible progress.  
 "Many continue to die without full redress, this cannot be right.  
 "The interim payment for deaths not yet recognized is critical.  
 "These payments are not just

about compensation, they symbolize acknowledgement and represent initial recognition of each life lost."  
 Sunak has previously said the government will wait for the full report into the infected blood scandal before considering whether to extend the compensation scheme for victims.  
 Sunak will give evidence to the inquiry on July 26 and Hunt is due to appear on July 28.  
 Commons leader and former paymaster general Penny Mordaunt will appear on July 24, with current Paymaster General Jeremy Quin at the inquiry the following day.  
 The ministers will give evidence on the government's response to the use of infected blood and the question of compensation.  
 The chairman of the inquiry has said that an interim compensation scheme should be widened so more people, including orphaned children and parents who lost children, could be compensated.  
 Evans, director of campaign group Factor 8, said: "The transparency has never been there from the beginning, it is probably  
 (Continued on Page 7)