

BAGHDAD (AFP) – A French military trainer was killed in Iraq on Sunday during an exercise, the French presidency said. Named as Nicolas Latourte, the soldier "lost his life," Emmanuel Macron's office wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. His death followed that of another French soldier who was killed a few days ago in a road accident in Iraq. France has around 600 troops in Iraq aimed.

Live amongst people in such a manner that if you die they weep over you and if you are alive they crave for your company.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Zionist Settler Killed, Another Injured in Retaliatory Op in Al-Khalil



Zionist troops are seen at the scene of a Palestinian retaliatory shooting operation near the occupied West Bank city of Al-Quds, on August 21, 2023.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A Zionist woman has died and a man has been seriously wounded in a retaliatory shooting on a car near the city of Al-Khalil in the southern occupied West Bank.

The military said in a statement that the pair, who were in their 40s, came under fire from a passing vehicle while driving.

The vehicle was hit by at least 22 rounds, with another three bullet impacts found nearby, according to the military's initial investigation.

The military said it launched a manhunt and closed off a number of roads in the area. The military was questioning Palestinians entering and leaving Al-Khalil.

The occupying regime's ambulance service said the woman was declared dead at the scene shortly afterward.

A 6-year-old girl, who was in the car during the attack, was unharmed.

Hebrew-language media outlets reported that the slain woman and her young daughter had

hitched a ride with the Israeli man who was wounded in the attack.

The Gaza-based Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movements said the attack was a response to the occupying regime's expanding settlement enterprise in the West Bank but stopped short of claiming responsibility.

Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for Hamas, stated that valiant Palestinian fighters, who effectively conduct acts of resistance in the northern and central parts of the West Bank, carried out a heroic operation in the southern part on Monday.

He said that the shooting is a natural response to the regime's war on Palestinians' sanctities as well as its illegal settlement expansion policies in Al-Quds and across the West Bank.

Qassem added that young Palestinian fighters can skillfully circumvent the regime's security apparatus, despite a heightened state of alert in effect.

Palestinian resistance fighters carried out more than a dozen retaliatory operations across the occupied territories over the past 24 hours, according to a report.

The report by the independent Palestinian Mo'ta information center said three of the 19 retaliatory attacks were shooting operations and four involved throwing explosive devices at Israeli forces.

Seven separate cases of confrontations with Zionist troops were recorded in Al-Quds, Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin, Qalqilya, al-Khalil, and Tulkarm as well, it added.

It further said that Palestinian fighters opened fire at the al-Za'im checkpoint in occupied Al-Quds, hurled explosive devices at Zionist troops in the Qalandiya checkpoint, and threw firecrackers during confrontations in the Jabel Mukaber neighborhood in southern East al-Quds.

'Dangerous, Volatile Vacuum'

The long-standing impasse in peace talks between the Zionist regime and Palestine is exacerbating an already dire situation, the UN warned Monday.

"The lack of progress towards a political horizon that addresses the core issues driving the conflict has left a dangerous and volatile vacuum," Tor Wennesland, the UN's special coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, told the Security Council.

"While we must urgently focus on addressing most critical issues, and on de-escalating the situation on the ground, we cannot ignore the need to restore a political horizon. The UN remains firmly committed to supporting the parties to achieve an end to the occupation, and the establishment of a two-state solution," he added.

Rights Group: Saudi Border Guards Killed Hundreds of Ethiopian Migrants



Ethiopians at the Bole Airport in Addis Ababa, on March 30, 2022, after their repatriation from Saudi Arabia.

LONDON (AFP) – Saudi border guards fired "like rain" on Ethiopian migrants trying to cross into the Persian Gulf kingdom from Yemen, killing hundreds since last year, Human Rights Watch said in a report Monday.

The allegations, described as "unfounded" by a Saudi government source, point to a significant escalation of abuses along the perilous route from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians live and work.

One 20-year-old woman from Ethiopia's Oromia region, interviewed by HRW, said Saudi border guards opened fire on a group of migrants they had just released from custody.

"They fired on us like rain. When I remember, I cry," she said.

"I saw a guy calling for help, he lost both his legs. He was screaming; he was saying, 'Are you leaving me here? Please don't leave me'. We couldn't help him because we were running for our lives."

HRW researcher Nadia Hardman said "Saudi officials are killing hundreds of migrants and asylum seekers in this remote border area out of view of the rest of the

world," according to a statement. "Spending billions buying up professional golf, football clubs, and major entertainment events to improve the Saudi image should not deflect attention from these horrendous crimes," she said.

A Saudi government source told AFP that the allegations were unreliable.

"The allegations included in the Human Rights Watch report about Saudi border guards shooting Ethiopians while they were crossing the Saudi-Yemeni border are unfounded and not based on reliable sources," said the source, who requested anonymity.

The New York-based group has documented abuses against Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia and Yemen for nearly a decade, but the latest killings appear to be "widespread and systematic" and may amount to crimes against humanity, it said.

Last year, United Nations experts reported "concerning allegations" that "cross-border artillery shelling and small-arms fire by Saudi Arabia security forces killed approximately 430 migrants" in southern Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen during the first four months of 2022.

Syrian Army Shoots Down 3 Drones Equipped With Explosives

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian armed forces shot down three drones laden with explosives suspected of being belonged to terrorists groups in the suburbs of Idlib and Hama province on Monday.

"After monitoring the movements of the terrorist organizations and their repeated attempts to attack peaceful civilians and their property, units of Syrian armed forces operating in Idlib and Hama countryside shot down three drones equipped with explosives that tried to attack the safe surrounding villages and towns", the Syrian Ministry of Defense announced on its Facebook page.

On August 3, units of the Syrian Army destroyed two drones and shot down 3 others belonging to

the terrorists in the northern and western countryside of Aleppo.

In another development in the country, at least eight militants were killed in Russian air strikes early Monday targeting a militant base in Syria's northwest, a war monitor said.

"Russian warplanes carried out air strikes on the western outskirts of Idlib city, targeting a military base belonging to Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS)... killing at least eight fighters," said Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Several other terrorists were wounded in the strikes, with some in critical condition, said the Britain-based monitor, which relies on a wide network of sources in-

side Syria.

Terrorist group HTS, led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, controls swathes of Idlib province, parts of which form the last bastions of armed militants.

HTS also controls parts of the adjacent Latakia, Hama and Aleppo provinces.

An AFP correspondent at the site said the militant group cordoned off the area after the strikes, which came shortly after midnight.

Russia has repeatedly struck the Idlib stronghold over the years.

Moscow is a major ally of Damascus, and its intervention in Syria since 2015 helped to turn the tide in the government's favor.

Russia, alongside Iran, has been

helping Syrian forces in battles across the conflict-plagued country, mainly providing aerial support to ground operations against foreign-backed terrorists.

Back on July 18, Mikhail Bogdanov, the Russian president's special representative for the Middle East and Africa, sternly criticized the persisting illegal presence of U.S. military forces in Syria, demanding that the Pentagon end its illegitimate occupation of the Arab nation's energy- and mineral-rich regions.

"Washington uses the pretext of combating terrorism to be present east of the Euphrates in economically important areas, where crude oil and strategic natural reserves are abundant," he said at the time.

12 Killed, 19 Injured in Turkey as Bus Falls Into Ravine

ANKARA (AP) – A passenger bus veered off the road and crashed into a roadside ditch in central Turkey on Monday, killing 12 people and injuring 19 others, officials said.

The driver of the bus lost control of the vehicle, which crossed into the oncoming lane and then plunged into the ditch near the central

Turkish city of Yozgat, Gov. Mehmet Ali Ozkan said.

The bus was traveling from Sivas — some 240 kilometers (150 miles) east of Yozgat — to Istanbul.

Ozkan said 11 of the passengers died at the scene of the crash while one died later in the

hospital.

The injured passengers were being treated in nearby hospitals and one of them was in serious condition, he said.

The cause of the crash was under investigation, Ozkan said, adding that it appeared to be the result of "carelessness" by the driver.

Omani Delegation Departs Yemen After Truce Talks

SANAA (Xinhua) – An Omani delegation has departed Yemen's capital after holding talks with the Sana'a-based government over efforts to resume a truce with the Saudi-backed rivals in the south, al-Masirah TV reported Monday.

During the four-day visit, the mediators discussed arrangements for "the next round of negotiations, including resuming truce and seeking solutions to the humanitarian issues," said the television, without revealing when a new round of negotiation will be held.

The previous truce, which was brokered by the United Nations, lasted for six months and expired in October last year. However, fighting between government forces and the Saudi-backed rivals have largely abated on several frontlines in the absence of a truce.

Last week, UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg said in his briefing to the UN Security Council that "the two sides con-

tinue to display a general willingness to seek solutions, but this still needs to be translated into concrete steps, in particular, a clear agreement on the way forward that includes restarting an inclusive Yemeni political process."

Saudi Arabia and some of its allies began the invasion in March 2015 after the Yemeni popular resistance movement of Ansarullah took control of Yemen's affairs in the absence of a functioning government.

The invaders, which have enjoyed full-on arms, logistical, and political support on the part of the United States, have been seeking to restore Yemen's power to its former Riyadh- and Washington-friendly officials.

Although the coalition has failed to achieve any of its goals, the war has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and turned the entire country into the scene of what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.