

# U.S. Forces Loot More Oil From Syria



The U.S. occupation forces have smuggled more tankers loaded with stolen Syrian oil to northern Iraq.

DAMASCUS (SANA) – U.S. forces on Sunday looted and smuggled more Syrian resources to their bases in Iraqi territory, taking out a load of about 95 tankers of oil from al-Jazeera fields during the past 24 hours.

Local sources in al-Ya'arubiyah, to the northeastern side of the country, said that the U.S. occupation forces brought out a convoy of

vehicles to Iraqi territory via the illegal Mahmudiyah crossing, including 40 tankers loaded with Syrian oil stolen from al-Jazeera fields.

The sources added that the occupation troops brought out a convoy of 55 tankers loaded with stolen oil and transported it through the illegitimate al-Mahmudiyah crossing.

The U.S. military has for long stationed its forces and equipment in northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, maintains the deployment is meant to plunder the country's natural resources. Former U.S. president Donald Trump admitted on several occasions that American forces were in the Arab country for its oil wealth.

Several countries, including Russia and China, have condemned U.S. actions in plundering the Syrian resources and have called on Washington to stop its continued looting of the war-torn country's natural resources.

In another development in the country on Sunday, Daesh terrorist group killed 6 Syrian citizens in the desert of al-Shula in the southern countryside of Dayr al-Zawr.

Six shepherds were killed and two others were injured in the attack by terrorists in the al-Shula area in the southern countryside.

While the war and crisis in Syria has entered its 13th year, many terrorist groups supported by the Western-Zionist front, including Daesh, have been defeated by the resistance fighters and the Syrian army, but their Western-Zionist leaders still seek to continue the crisis in Syria.

## Turkish, Egyptian Presidents Hold Talks After Decade

ANKARA (Anadolu/MEMO)

– Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday met with his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in India for talks after a decade.

The closed-door meeting came on the sidelines of the final day of the G-20 summit in the capital New Delhi.

"The meeting addressed bilateral relations between Turkey and Egypt, efforts to increase trade volume, new cooperation in the field of energy and regional and global issues," Turkey's Communications Directorate said on X.

Pointing out that relations have entered a "new era" with the mutual appointments of ambassadors, Erdogan expressed his belief that

bilateral relations will reach the level they deserve "as soon as possible."

Emphasizing that the Egyptian administration's support to Turkish investors and companies is essential, Erdogan underlined that they attach importance to reviving cooperation in the fields of LNG, nuclear energy, culture and education, according to the directorate.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin, Communications Director Fahrettin Altun, Erdogan's chief advisers Akif Cagatay Kilic, and Sefer Turan were also present at the meeting.

Although Cairo is not a member of the G-20, term president India had invited the leaders of Bangla-

desh, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Egypt, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates to attend the summit.

This July, Turkey and Egypt raised their diplomatic ties and appointed ambassadors.

Ties between the two countries had been at the level of charges d'affaires since 2013.

El-Sisi was among the leaders who called Erdogan after the devastating Feb. 6 earthquakes in southern Turkey, offering his condolences.

Ties between Egypt and Turkey have been strained since Egypt's army, led by Sisi, ousted Muslim Brotherhood President Mohammed Morsi, a close ally of Erdogan, in 2013.

Cairo designates the Muslim Brotherhood as terrorist organization. Erdogan's AK Party supported Morsi's short-lived Egyptian government. Many Brotherhood members and their supporters have fled to Turkey since the group's activities were banned in Egypt.

The two countries also clashed over maritime jurisdiction and offshore resources, as well as differences in Libya, where they backed opposing sides in the civil war.

After trading insults and accusations for years, Ankara and Cairo started softening their public rhetoric towards one another in 2021.

Erdogan and Sisi agreed on the immediate start of upgrading diplomatic relations and to exchange ambassadors in May.

## Israeli Delegation Attends UN Heritage Conference in Saudi Arabia in First Public Visit

AL-QUDS (AP) – An Israeli delegation arrived in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to attend a UN conference on world heritage sites, in the first public visit by regime of officials to the kingdom, an official with the Zionist regime said.

The delegation is led by the head of Israel's Antiquities Authority, Eli Escusido, and includes diplomats, the official said. It is not a bilateral visit, and it was unclear whether they would meet with Saudi officials. The official was not authorized

to discuss the matter with media and spoke on condition of anonymity. The official noted that the occupying regime took part in a video game competition in Saudi Arabia earlier this year.

The visit comes as Washington is pushing to broker normalization of relations between the regime and Saudi Arabia, which are believed to have quietly cultivated ties in recent years.

The Saudis are reportedly demanding significant progress on resolving the conflict with the

Palestinians — a hard sell for the most right-wing cabinet in the occupying regime's history — as well as U.S. defense guarantees and aid in establishing a civilian nuclear program.

The 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee is being held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, from Sunday through Sept. 25. The committee determines which sites are added to the World Heritage List and supervises their conservation.

The occupying regime announced it was quitting UNESCO in 2017, accusing the international body of being biased against it and diminishing its historical connection to the Holy Land. But the regime remains a party to the World Heritage Convention.

Saudi Arabia has been developing and promoting its own heritage sites in recent years as the kingdom seeks to transform itself into a prime destination for tourists and investment.

## Morocco ...

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Faisal Badour, an engineer, said he felt the quake three times in his building in Marrakesh.

"There are families who are still sleeping outside because we were so scared of the force of this earthquake," he said. "The screaming and crying was unbearable."

Frenchman Michael Bizet, 43, who owns three traditional riad houses in Marrakesh's old town, told AFP he was in bed when the quake struck.

"I thought my bed was going to fly away. I went out into the street half-naked and immediately went to see my riads. It was total chaos, a real catastrophe, madness," he said.

Footage on social media showed part of a minaret collapsed on Jemaa el-Fna square in the historic city.

An AFP correspondent saw hundreds of people flocking to the square to spend the night for fear of aftershocks, some with blankets while others slept on the ground.

Houda Outassaf, a local resident, said she was "still in shock" after feeling the earth shake beneath her feet - and losing relatives.

"I have at least 10 members of my family who died... I can hardly believe it, as I was with them no more than two days ago," she said.

The regional blood transfusion centre in Marrakesh called on residents to donate blood for the injured.

The Royal Moroccan Football Federation announced that a Cup of African Nations qualifier against Liberia, due to have been played on Saturday in the coastal city of Agadir, had been postponed indefinitely.

"We heard screams at the time of the tremor," a resident of Essaouira, 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Marrakesh, told AFP. "Pieces of facades have fallen."

The Red Cross said it was mobilizing resources to support the Moroccan Red Crescent, but its Middle East and North Africa director, Hossam Elsharkawi, warned: "We are looking at many months if not years of response."

Neighbor and regional rival Algeria announced it was suspending a two-year-old ban on all Moroccan flights through its airspace to enable aid deliveries and medical evacuations.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping expressed "deep grief for the victims" and hope that "the Moroccan government and people will be able to overcome the impact of this disaster".

In 2004, at least 628 people were killed and 926 injured when a quake hit Al Hoceima in northeastern Morocco, and in 1960 a magnitude 6.7 quake in Agadir killed more than 12,000. The 7.3-magnitude El Asnam earthquake in Algeria killed 2,500 people and left at least 300,000 homeless in 1980.

The two villages lie in Al-Haouz province, site of the quake epicenter, which suffered the most deaths, 1,293, followed by Taroudant province with 452 lives lost, authorities reported.

Citizens on Sunday rushed to hospitals in Marrakesh to donate blood to help the injured.

Many residents of the usually bustling tourist hotspot of Marrakesh spent a second night sleeping on the streets, huddled together under blankets and among bags filled with their belongings.

One of them, Fatema Satir, said many stayed outside for fear of their houses collapsing.

"There is no help for us," Satir said. "Our houses have been cracked, others destroyed - like my daughter's house which was wiped out. We are in a chaotic state."

In the city's historic Jemaa el-Fna square, about 20 people were huddled on the ground, wrapped in blankets, while others stayed on the lawn of the nearby town hall, its 12th-century ramparts partially collapsed.

The quake was the deadliest in Morocco since a 1960 earthquake destroyed Agadir and killed more than 12,000 people.

their "quality-adjusted life years" – lost quality of life – when they are ill (£4.3bn) and because some die early (£25.3bn).

Last week, research reported in the BMJ Oncology found that the number of under-50s being diagnosed with cancer worldwide had risen by 79% between 1990 and 2019. The authors said obesity, physical inactivity, alcohol and smoking were likely to help explain the surge, alongside other factors such as pollution.

The British Medical Association (BMA) urged ministers to take action "to reduce the availability and attractiveness of products such as alcohol, tobacco and junk food that contribute to a large number of preventable diseases, including some cancers".

For example, it said, ministers should encourage food producers and retailers to

ensure fresh fruit and vegetables are as affordable as possible, to help consumers eat a healthy diet.

Highlighting the £40bn hit to productivity from avoidable cancer, Prof David Strain, the chair of the BMA's board of science, said: "A sick population makes for a sick economy. As this report shows, with cancer not only comes pain and suffering but also the financial cost to individuals, their families, the state and the NHS and care services. This is unforgivable when so many cancers are preventable."

The Institute of Alcohol Studies said ministers should force alcohol producers to put labels on cans and bottles making clear that drinking heightens the risk of cancer.

CRUK's Mitchell voiced concern that the government was likely to miss its target for England to be "smoke-free" by 2030 because smoking rates were not falling as quickly as hoped, and that long-promised measures to tackle obesity – such as a ban on buy one get one free offers on junk food – had been delayed.

## Saudi...

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"Today, protection of the environment is a general issue and concern and is not simply related to a specific country and region, and the threats caused by environmental damage for human life and food security have made all countries and concerned people think and cooperate in this regard," the Iranian president said.

Raisi described the presence of nearly 50 countries and 15 international organizations in this event as the sign of a common feeling for protection of the environment, adding, "Protection of the environment must not be influenced by political issues and usual diplomatic compliments, and the decisions made in this field must be considered and followed up as an important issue."

He mentioned "using the capacities of scientific and research centers," "creating a special fund" and "preparing cultural and media annexes" for development projects as Iran's three proposals for dealing effectively with sand and dust storms.

## President...

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security of pilgrimage between the two countries.

Iran and Iraq signed an agreement for the construction of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway in 2021 after being in the pipeline for many years. Prior to this, plans were shelved in 2014, the same year that Daesh terrorists overran large swathes of land in northern Iraq and eastern Syria.

After repeated delays, efforts were revived in April with Baghdad and Tehran agreeing to implement the railway link during a meeting between Iraqi Minister of Transport Razzaq Mohibis al-Saadawi and Iranian Minister of Roads and Housing Mehrdad Bazrpash in the Iranian capital. The railway project will reportedly become operational within the next 18 months.

Sudani, for his part, reiterated commitment of the Iraqi government and nation to fight against all the elements who pose a threat to sustainable security in the region. The Iraqi prime minister said the massive participation of the Iranian pilgrims in Arba'a mourning ceremony exposed the strong common beliefs of the Iranian and Iraqi nations.

He said the beginning of Shalamcheh-Basra railway construction shows the Iraqi government's firm determination to enhance relations with Iran in all fields.

## Report...

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"This is when things got serious again." The Iranian, diplomatic and regional sources said that once the money reaches Qatar from South Korea via Switzerland, Qatari officials will instruct Tehran and Washington to proceed with the releases under the terms of a document signed by both sides and Qatar in late July or early August.

The transfer to banks in Qatar is expected to conclude as early as next week if all goes to plan, Reuters said.

"American prisoners will fly to Qatar from Tehran and Iranian prisoners will fly from the U.S. to Qatar, and then be transferred to Iran," one unnamed source told the news agency.

The talks' most complex part reportedly was arranging a mechanism to ensure transparency in the money transfer. The \$6 billion in Iranian assets – the proceeds of oil sales – were frozen under sweeping U.S. oil and financial sanctions against Iran. Then president Trump in 2018 reimposed the sanctions when he pulled Washington out of the deal.

## Afghanistan Criticizes Closure of Main Border Crossing With Pakistan

KABUL (Reuters) – The Afghan Taliban criticized the closure of its main border crossing with Pakistan this week after clashes between security forces, saying the halt in trade would see heavy losses for businesses.

The busy Torkham border crossing closed on Wednesday after Pakistani and Afghan Taliban forces started firing at each other, according to local officials.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan deems the closure of Torkham gate and opening of

been halted and traders have complained that trade is affected.

"The closure of Torkham gate can adversely affect bilateral and regional trade, and cause trade and financial losses to common mercantile class on both sides," the statement said, adding many travelers were also stuck on each side of the border.

Disputes linked to the 2,600 km (1,615 mile) border have been a bone of contention between the neighbors for decades.

fire on Afghan security forces by the Pakistani side contrary to good neighborliness," Taliban administration's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement late on Saturday.

The statement said the incident had started after Pakistani security forces fired at Afghan Taliban forces fixing an old security outpost near the border. Pakistan's foreign office did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Hundreds of trucks laden with goods have