

BEIRUT (Xinhua) – Two people suspected of spying for the Zionist regime have been arrested in Lebanon, a Lebanese intelligence official has announced. Elias al-Baysari, director general of General Security, said the two suspects were assigned to carry out operations inside Lebanon and were arrested as they attempted to leave the country through the Rafic Hariri International Airport in capital Beirut, Elnashra news website reported. The two people have been referred to Lebanon's military judiciary, Elnashra quoted al-Baysari as saying. According to the official, Lebanese authorities have conducted investigations and will reveal more details later.

One who rushes madly after inordinate desire, runs the risk of encountering destruction and death.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## Resistance Vows Revenge as Palestinian Succumbs to Wounds

West Bank (Dispatches) – The Palestinian news agency has reported that a 20-year-old has died of wounds a month after being shot during a raid by Zionist troops in the occupied West Bank.

The Wafa news agency said on Saturday that Ezzedin Kanan, from the town of Jaba near Jenin, was shot in the head on July 3 during one of the most intense raids by the occupying regime's troops.

An offshoot of the Fatah party, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, said Kanan was one of its "fiercest fighters" and pledged to avenge his loss.

Armed and masked fighters flanked the mourning procession for Kanan as his body, wrapped in a Palestinian flag and adorned with a headband from the group, was carried through his home village of Jaba.

Kanan's death brings the total to 14 people martyred in the raid, which lasted two days and included air attacks, hundreds of ground troops and bulldozers that were used to raze roads and buildings.



Hiyam Abu Oun mourns her son, Ezzedin Kanan, 20, who succumbed to his wounds sustained in a Zionist raid last month, during his funeral in the West Bank city of Jenin, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023.

Under the claim of pursuing "wanted" Palestinians, Zionist troops routinely raid various cities of the West Bank, sparking violent clashes with the residents. The regime's brutal aggression has resulted in the death of more than 200 Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories and Gaza this year. The majority of these casualties have occurred in

the West Bank.

According to the United Nations, 2023 is already the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since it began recording fatalities in 2005.

The previous year, 2022, had been the most lethal year with 150 Palestinians killed, of whom 33 were minors, as reported by the United Nations.

A day earlier, Zionist troops attacked Palestinian worshippers gathering at the Al-Aqsa mosque for Friday prayers, injuring at least eight people.

The occupation forces fired stun grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets at the worshippers at the Bab al-Asbat, or Lions' Gate, one of the gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Reports say an elderly Palestinian was the first target of the regime attack.

The Israeli occupation police said three of its members were injured in clashes with Palestinians in the area.

The Al-Aqsa mosque has been a scene of frequent assaults by Zionist troops in recent months, as the regime's right-wing cabinet has escalated its crackdown on Palestinians.

Illegal settler incursions under police protection to the Al-Aqsa Mosque have been on the rise recently as they are encouraged by Tel Aviv-backed temple groups that seek to destroy the mosque and replace it with a Jewish temple.

## Hamas Calls for 'Tangible' Int'l Stance on Ben-Gvir's Racism



Supporters of the Palestinian Hamas movement stage a protest against the Zionist regime, in Khan Yunis, Gaza on October 14, 2022.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has called for the international community to take "tangible" measures regarding far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's racism.

In a statement, Hamas condemned racist remarks made by Ben-Gvir to an Israeli TV about his alleged right to move across the occupied West Bank territories.

Ben-Gvir claimed he, his wife and children has the "has the right as colonial settlers to free movement across the occupied West Bank," while at the same time he denies Palestinians' right to free movement. "These remarks," Hamas said, "reflect the Israeli regime's fascist ethnic cleansing policy against the Palestinian people."

Ben-Gvir, in an interview with Channel 12, said that the "Israeli settler right to move across the occupied West Bank is more important than the right of the indigenous Palestinians."

Hamas stressed that the Palestinian people "will not leave their lands, and the Israeli occupation's plans to displace them are doomed to fail."

At the same time, Hamas reiterated that the Palestinian people "will not allow the occupation leaders and colonial settlers to implement their colonial projects

on the occupied Palestinian territories."

Concluding its statement, Hamas said: "The international community must work towards holding the Israeli occupation leaders and colonial settlers accountable for their crimes against the Palestinian people and violations of international law."

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry also said in a press statement that it condemned in the strongest terms "the racist statements and stances of Ben-Gvir."

"Such statements are considered as an incitement to perpetuate the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, deepen settlements, and impose more forms of injustice against the Palestinians," the ministry statement added.

"Ben-Gvir's remarks summarize the current situation and the daily life of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including East Al-Quds, as well as the unjust siege on our people in the Gaza Strip," it noted, adding "the Israeli settlements in East Al-Quds and the West Bank have turned the life of the Palestinians into a continuous daily journey of torment."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement and various other Palestinian factions have also condemned Ben-Gvir's remarks.

## Brother of Prominent Saudi Scholar Sentenced To Death Over Tweets

RIYADH (Middle East Eye) – A Saudi court has sentenced the brother of a prominent scholar and government critic to death over his tweets against corruption and for defending imprisoned religious scholars during interrogations, his family and rights groups have reported.

In a tweet, renowned UK-based religious scholar Saeed al-Ghamdi said the Specialized Criminal Court in Riyadh had handed his brother, Mohammed al-Ghamdi, a death sentence over tweets made from an anonymous account with nine followers.

His tweets, seen by Middle East Eye, focused on unemployment, inflation, and government mismanagement of resources and called for the release of political prisoners.

"I appeal to everyone who has any ability to help free my brother's neck from the rule of injustice and unfair rulings," Saeed al-

Ghamdi, who lives in self-imposed exile in London, said.

He added that his brother, a retired teacher, was also sentenced for defending detained Saudi scholars Awad al-Qarni, Salman al-Odeh, Ali al-Omari and Safar al-Hawali during interrogations. Qarni, Odeh and Omari have been imprisoned since 2017 and are all facing the death penalty.

The ruling against Mohammed al-Ghamdi, made in early July nearly a year after his arrest in June 2022, was confirmed on Friday by UK-based advocacy groups Alqst and the Sanad Rights Foundation.

It is understood to be the first death sentence over social media posts after a string of extreme sentences over online activism, starting with the 34-year sentence of Leeds University doctoral candidate Salma al-Shehab over tweets last August.

Veteran Saudi rights advocates and lawyers told MEE that they

were shocked over the ruling.

Saudi government critics are routinely charged with inciting violence or terrorism in cases that rights groups believe have been brought over free speech. But in Mohammed's case, there is no such conflation, said Lina al-Hathloul, Alqst's head of monitoring and communications.

"They don't say he has created any kind of terrorist organization. They literally say he has betrayed his religion and the state by following YouTube and Twitter accounts," Hathloul told MEE. "It's also the first time that the death sentence is decided so fast."

Taha al-Hajji, a Saudi lawyer and legal consultant with the European Saudi Organization for Human Rights, said that Saudi courts were taking "advantage of discretionary rulings to liquidate whoever they want".

"Tampering and disregarding

lives has reached a dangerous stage in Saudi Arabia. A death sentence issued on absurd accusations is terrifying and dangerous," said Hajji.

Extreme sentencing over social media posts in the kingdom started last August with Shehab's 34-year prison sentence, plus a 34-year travel ban over retweets in support of women's right to drive and for calling for the release of activists, including Loujain al-Hathloul.

A week after Shehab's sentencing, Nourah al-Qahtani, a mother of five, was sentenced to 45 years in prison over tweets from two anonymous accounts.

Their cases were followed by Saad Almadi, a dual Saudi-American citizen, who was sentenced to 16 years over his tweets, which was increased to 19 years by an appeals court before he was released in March. A 16-year travel ban, however, remains in place.

## Syrian Locals Force U.S. Troops to Leave Village

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Residents in a village in northern Syria backed by a Syrian army unit intercepted a U.S. military convoy that attempted to go into their village on Saturday and forced the U.S. troops out of the area.

Residents of Hammo village in the southern countryside of Qamishli, backed by a Syrian army unit, intercepted a military convoy of the American occupation that attempted to go in their village and expelled it from the area, the Syrian official news agency reported on Saturday.

Local sources told SANA reporter that a convoy of four armored vehicles linked to U.S. forces accompanied by a car belonging to the separatist SDF militia tried to cross into the international road passing through the village, but the locals intercepted the convoy and expelled it from the area.

U.S. military trucks and tankers frequently

carry tons of grain and crude oil from the north-eastern Syrian province of Hasakah to the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq as part of Washington's systematic smuggling of basic commodities out of Syria.

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.

In another development in the country, militants in northwest Syria attacked an army position Saturday killing and wounding more than 30 troops, opposition activists said.

The attack came days after Russian and Syrian warplanes carried out several airstrikes on the last major militant stronghold in the northwestern province of Idlib and parts of Aleppo killing several militants.

The Britain-based so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said the Ansar al-Tawhid group, which is allied with Al-Qaeda, carried out the attack with its members first detonating a massive bomb and then storming the position manned by government troops.

The Observatory said the attack killed 11 soldiers and wounded 20 others.

Other activist collectives, including Amjad News, also reported the attack saying it killed and wounded dozens of soldiers without giving a breakdown.

There was no immediate comment from the Syrian government or state media.

## Paper: Kuwait Expelled Over 25,000 Expats This Year

KUWAIT CITY (Middle East Eye) – Authorities in Kuwait have issued deportation orders to around 25,000 expats since the start of 2023.

The figures amount to around 108 people being expelled per day, according to a report published by Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas.

According to a Kuwaiti security source, the expats have been deported on the basis of administrative decisions over various violations.

Some of the most common violations include involvement in narcotics abuse, begging, committing acts that harm the security of the country and violation of residence and labor laws.

The security source added

that around "10,000 women have transgressed the law and committed violations".

The report also stated that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior has drawn up plans to clamp down on around 100,000 people who are violating the laws and are in hiding, and that an "intensive campaign will be launched in the coming days to seize them".

Earlier this year, Al Qabas reported that the Ministry of Interior is working with the Labor Authorities to implement a campaign to deport any expats who are breaking the law.

According to official government statistics, there are around 133,000 people in breach of residency laws in the country.