

Yemen Downs Saudi Drone, Vows Naval Blockade Until Siege Broken

SANAA (Dispatches) -- The Yemeni Armed Forces say they shot down a Saudi reconnaissance drone over the northern province of Sa'ada while it was carrying out "hostile activities."

Military spokesman Yahya Saree said on Wednesday that air defenses downed a Saudi Karayel-type drone using an appropriate weapon.

He stressed that Yemen's Armed Forces will continue protecting the country's sovereignty and have the "legitimate right" to respond to any violation. Yemeni forces have shot down five drones of the same type during previous years of Saudi aggression.

The announcement follows a sharp escalation after Saudi forces struck Sana'a International Airport on July 13, violating a four-year ceasefire and prompting Yemen's armed forces to resume retaliatory operations. In response, Yemeni forces targeted strategic sites inside Saudi Arabia, including Abha International Airport.

Last Monday, Ansarullah announced a "siege for siege" policy and declared a naval blockade on Saudi maritime traffic through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Dhaifallah al-Shami, a member



Wreckage of a Saudi-led coalition Karayel drone is seen after it was shot down by Yemeni air defenses over al-Maraziq area in Jawf province in this handout image released by Yemen's military media unit.

of Ansarullah's political bureau, said Sana'a launched the operation to "break the Saudi blockade" and will continue until Yemenis secure their rights. He said Saudi Arabia seeks to impose guardianship over millions of Yemenis, and all options remain on the table.

Al-Shami added that measures so far are merely a warning to Riyadh, and he censured Saudi Arabia for blaming neighboring countries, including Iraq, to conceal its own failures. He said Yemen officially announces every military opera-

tion and has no reservations about declaring its capabilities.

Yemen, as part of the Axis of Resistance, coordinates with other members while possessing the capabilities necessary to secure its rights.

China has held direct talks with Ansarullah to enable its tankers to sail through the southern Red Sea without being attacked, after the Yemeni resistance pledged to prevent access to Saudi ports. Ansarullah declared their blockade on July 20, opening a new front against the

U.S. and its allies.

Beijing asked Ansarullah directly to promise safe passage for its tankers, according to sources including a senior Iranian official.

China was among the first countries to contact the Yemeni resistance about transits through Bab el-Mandeb. Beijing seeks to keep oil exports flowing from Saudi Red Sea terminals to plug gaps caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to the terrorist U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

At least four tankers have transited Bab el-Mandeb since the Yemeni resistance announced restrictions, with Chinese officials clearing each vessel individually with Ansarullah.

The Yemeni resistance has informed shipping companies that vessels may be attacked if they load or discharge cargo at Saudi ports. Two tankers have changed course due to safety concerns.

Ansarullah said they struck two Saudi oil tankers last week, and maritime sources confirmed one strike. The Yemeni resistance has maintained good relations with China, with close coordination on oil shipments from Saudi Arabia to China, sources said.

Kuwait Revokes Citizenship of Prominent Shia Cleric, Five Activists

KUWAIT CITY (Dispatches) -- Kuwait has revoked the citizenship of a prominent Shia cleric and five other individuals, including activists and a political analyst, the latest in a sweeping campaign that has stripped tens of thousands of people of their nationality since early 2024.

The official gazette, Kuwait Alyoum, published the decrees on Wednesday. Among those affected is Sheikh Hussein Al-Maatouq, a leading Shia cleric and former secretary-general of the National Islamic Alliance, a major Shia political group in Kuwait.

In May 2026, Kuwait's State Se-

curity Criminal Court sentenced Al-Maatouq in absentia to five years in prison with hard labor on charges related to inciting sectarian strife.

Also stripped of citizenship were political analyst Muhammad al-Mutair, human rights activist Lulwa al-Husainan, and Abdullah al-Saleh, a prominent opposition figure based abroad who had previously been granted amnesty.

Al-Mutair said he was not surprised by the decision, describing it as expected given "the worst political period in Kuwait's history".

Al-Husainan, a vocal critic of Interior Minister Fahad al-Yousef, has

reportedly faced significant targeting by authorities in recent months, with several of her family members detained.

The revocations are part of a broader campaign that has seen citizenship stripped from more than 70,000 individuals since 2024, according to a UN expert, who said the policy has had "devastating and disproportionate consequences on women and children".

Authorities have described the effort as a review of nationality files to address "fraudulent" acquisitions, but rights groups have raised concerns about arbitrary deprivation of

nationality without judicial review.

In June 2026, Kuwait's parliament amended the nationality law, granting the interior minister authority to revoke citizenship in cases involving state security, crimes of dishonor, or activities deemed harmful to state interests. The amendments also stripped foreign wives of Kuwaiti men of automatic citizenship rights.

The legislative change has further alarmed expatriate communities and mixed-nationality families, who fear that even long-standing family ties to the country can now be severed at the discretion of a single minister.

Israeli Military Suicide Rate Climbs as More Soldiers Take Own Lives

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Two female Israeli soldiers have died by suicide this week, bringing the number of active-duty soldiers who have taken their own lives since the beginning of 2026 to 16, a report says.

The report published by Haaretz said one of the soldiers served in the Bardelas battalion along the Egypt-Palestine border and died by suicide at a military base in the southern Israeli occupied territories. The newspaper said she was found injured at the base and taken to hospital, where she was later pronounced dead.

In another report, the daily said the second soldier, who served in a classified position within the Israeli military, died by suicide on Sunday at the Gilot military base in the central Israeli occupied territories.

Data compiled by Haaretz showed that at least nine additional regular and reserve personnel who participated in the Gaza genocide also took their own lives after completing active service since the beginning of 2026.

The latest deaths continue an upward trend in military suicides that began after the

genocidal assault on Gaza in October 2023, according to figures cited in the report.

Military data cited by the newspaper showed that seven active-duty soldiers died by suicide between October 7 and the end of 2023, while the annual figure increased to 21 in 2024 and climbed further to 22 in 2025, the highest number recorded by the Israeli army in the past 15 years.

This sustained rise in suicide rates among active-duty personnel has drawn increasing concern from mental health advocates and military observers alike.

The figures reflect not just isolated incidents but a deepening crisis within the Israeli military's ranks, one that has been exacerbated by continuous combat operations and the prolonged nature of the conflict in Gaza.

The psychological toll of the war has proven to be severe and persistent, affecting soldiers across all branches and roles, from frontline combat units to support and administrative personnel.

Israel's terrorist war ministry has also reported a sharp increase in post-traumatic

stress disorder (PTSD) cases among military personnel since the Gaza genocide began.

The mental health of many soldiers who committed suicide had deteriorated following prolonged mistreatment by the military system, raising further questions about the Israeli army's handling of personnel struggling with the psychological consequences of the Gaza genocide, the report highlighted.

Israeli critics have pointed to a systemic failure in addressing the mental health needs of soldiers, citing inadequate access to psychological care, stigma surrounding seeking help, and a high-pressure command culture that discourages soldiers from expressing vulnerability.

The military has been accused of prioritizing operational readiness over the well-being of its troops, with insufficient resources allocated to preventative mental health programs and post-deployment support.

Neither the Israeli military nor any other Israeli regime institution has released annual figures for discharged soldiers and former reservists who died by suicide after leaving active service.

'Wherever They Set Foot, Blood Flows': Algeria's Tebboune Blasts UAE

ALGIERS (Dispatches) -- Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has launched a sharp criticism of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), warning that Abu Dhabi's regional policies have fueled instability across the Arab world and Africa's Sahel region, and stressing that Algeria will firmly defend its sovereignty.

Speaking in a televised interview on Wednesday, Tebboune referred to an unnamed regional "micro-state," widely understood to be the UAE, saying its activities have become a recurring source of conflict and violence across the region.

"Wherever they set foot, blood flows," the Algerian president said, adding that Algeria possesses evidence to support its position and is not making unfounded claims.

"This is serious, and we have proof. We are not speaking in the void," he said, adding that the matter could be referred to the United Nations or another international body for examination.

Although Tebboune did not explicitly name the UAE, his remarks left little doubt about the country he was addressing, amid growing tensions between Algiers and Abu Dhabi over their differing positions on regional developments.

The Algerian leader said his government has exercised restraint by maintaining diplomatic relations despite what he described as repeated interference in regional affairs.

"There is much division in the Arab world, and we do not want to worsen the situation," Teb-

boune said. "Otherwise, we would have broken off relations with this micro-state long ago, from which only humiliation and discord emanate."

Tebboune contrasted Algeria's relations with the UAE with its close ties with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Egypt, saying Algeria enjoys strong political and strategic cooperation with those countries.

The Algerian president has previously criticized Abu Dhabi's role in regional conflicts, including developments in Mali, Libya and Sudan, where the UAE has faced criticism from various actors over its malicious involvement.

The latest remarks come amid rising tensions between Algeria and the UAE. Algerian media reports have said Algiers has begun procedures to revoke the bilateral air services agreement signed in 2013, a move that could eventually affect direct flights between the two countries.

Reports have also suggested that Algerian authorities are considering further diplomatic measures against Abu Dhabi, although no official decision has been announced.

Tebboune also issued a strong warning regarding Tunisia, declaring that any attack or effort to destabilize the neighboring country would be viewed by Algeria as a direct threat.

"An attack on Tunisia is an attack on us," Tebboune said, noting that certain actors are seeking to undermine Tunisia because of its close relationship with Algeria.

American Journalist Reveals Role of Jolani's U.S. Envoy in Her 2016 Abduction

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- American journalist Lindsey Snell said on Wednesday that Syria's chargé d'affaires in Washington, Mohamed Qanatari, participated in her 2016 abduction by the Al-Nusra Front in northern Syria, revelations that have renewed scrutiny over officials serving in Syria's diplomatic service.

Snell made the revelation after posting archival footage on X of an interview she conducted with Qanatari shortly before she was kidnapped while reporting on Syria's conflict in 2016.

According to Snell, Qanatari was a member of the Al-Nusra Front at the time and later joined the foreign ministry of Syria's current administration led by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). Qanatari currently serves as Syria's chargé d'affaires in Washington, representing Syria's interests in the absence of a formally accredited ambassador.

In the video posted by Snell, Qanatari appears wearing a face covering in front of an Al-Nusra Front flag while discussing the group's objectives. Snell said that although he concealed his identity during the interview, she later identified him by his voice, eyes and manner of speaking.

Snell, an American freelance journalist, was kidnapped in northern Syria in 2016 while

covering the war. She escaped after being held for more than two weeks. She has long maintained that Qanatari was directly involved in her detention by the Al-Nusra Front, which at the time was Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria.

In July 2016, shortly after Snell's abduction, the Al-Nusra Front announced it was changing its name to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, saying it was severing its formal ties with Al-Qaeda. The group later became part of the alliance that evolved into HTS, which now leads Syria's administration led by former Al-Qaeda and Daesh deputy Abu Muhammad al-Jolani.

The revelations surfaced as Syria's takfiri regime seeks to expand diplomatic engagement with the United States. Qanatari has represented Syria in Washington which has embraced Jolani wholeheartedly.

Snell said she plans to release a second installment of the footage from her 2016 interview, which she said contains additional material related to Qanatari and the circumstances surrounding her kidnapping.

She has promised that the second release will provide further documentation of his role, potentially including exchanges that directly link him to the planning of her abduction.