



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

**The Restructuring Proces of Iraq**

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

**Energy Security**

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**19 OCTOBER 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **Jubouri Calls On Leaders Of The Blocs To Unite Efforts Of All Parties To Resolve Selecting New Electoral Commission**

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Salim al-Jubouri on Thursday, in the parliament building, headed a meeting of leaders and members of the parliamentary blocs to discuss the file of selection new members of the Independent High Electoral Commission. Jubouri stressed the need to unify the efforts of all parties and agree on a formula that will satisfy everyone in the process of selecting the new members of the Commission.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?20%252bh8OMtiMm3%252bplUmcGhJg%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?20%252bh8OMtiMm3%252bplUmcGhJg%253d%253d)

- **Iraq orders arrest for Kurdistan VP for anti-army remarks**

A top Iraqi court ordered Thursday the arrest of Kurdistan Region's vice president over hostile remarks he made of Iraqi forces which took over the disputed Kirkuk province earlier this week. The Rusafa investigation court in Baghdad ordered the arrest of Kosrat Rasul, a deputy secretary-general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, for having described Iraqi forces as "occupier forces" as they retook control over Kirkuk, said a statement by the Higher Judicial Council's spokesman, Abdul-Sattar Beraqdar.

More Details:

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraq-orders-arrest-kurdistan-vp-anti-army-remarks/>

- **Latest map of territories captured by Iraqi forces**

The Iraqi military has seized several important areas in northwestern Iraq this week, forcing the Kurdish Peshmerga to abandon their posts, often without a fight. The Iraqi military began the week by seizing the provincial capital of Kirkuk, K1 Base, and its nearby oil fields, including the Bai Hassan and Dibs refineries. Following the seizure of Kirkuk, the Iraqi forces shifted their focus to the Yazidi populated city of Sinjar in Iraq's northwestern countryside.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/latest-map-territories-captured-iraqi-forces/>



- **Iraq expects to restore Kirkuk output Sunday - oil ministry official**

Iraq won't be able to restore Kirkuk's oil output to last week's levels before Sunday because of missing equipment at two fields, an oil ministry official told Reuters on Thursday. The official accused the Kurdish authorities previously in control of Kirkuk of removing equipment at the Bai Hasan and Avana oil fields, North West of the city.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-iraq-kurds-crude/iraq-expects-to-restore-kirkuk-output-sunday-oil-ministry-official-idUSL8N1MU3OO?rpc=401&>

- **Balance of power shifts in Iraq's multi-ethnic Kirkuk**

With the return of Kirkuk to Iraqi control, the balance of power appears to have shifted between the ethnic communities in the Kurdish-majority city, to the delight of its Turkmen residents. "Before we couldn't proudly declare that we are Turkmen, now our flag is flying over Kirkuk's citadel again," said Omar Najat, 23.

More Details:

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/balance-of-power-shifts-in-iraq-s-multi-ethnic-kirkuk/article/505433>

- **Iraq army chief of staff arrives in Saudi Arabia**

Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army, Lieutenant-General Othman Al-Ghanmi, arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday as part of a senior military delegation, the New Khaleej news website reported. Al-Ghanmi's visit comes on the back of an invitation issued to him by his Saudi counterpart Major General Abdul Rahman Bin Saleh during his visit to Baghdad in July. The military leaders will discuss cooperation in the field of fighting terrorism, opening crossings and challenges faced while ensuring the safety and security of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171019-iraq-army-chief-of-staff-arrives-in-saudi-arabia/>

- **Kurdish forces in Iraq withdraw to pre-Daesh line**

Kurdish Peshmerga forces have retreated to the positions they held in June 2014, before the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group swept through Iraq. Iraqi forces say they have achieved their objectives in a 48-hour operation against Kurdish forces in the disputed areas. Press TV's Altaf Ahmad reports from Kirkuk.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/19/539107/Kurdish-forces-in-Iraq-withdraw-to-preDaesh-line->

- **2 SCOTS Prepare For Deployment To Iraq**

Second Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland have been training on the STANTA range in Norfolk, ahead of their forthcoming deployment to Iraq. The mission comes at a time when the situation on the ground is evolving in Iraq. The regiment is currently taking part in their mission rehearsal exercise in Norfolk, where they are training for their mentoring and force protection role before they deploy to Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.forces.net/news/2-scots-prepare-deployment-iraq>

- **Iraq oil ministry warns oil companies against Kurdistan contracts**

- Iraq's oil ministry on Thursday cautioned oil companies against signing contracts with Iraqi Kurdistan. On Wednesday Russian state-controlled oil company Rosneft signed an agreement to put production sharing agreements into force with respect to five production blocks in Iraqi Kurdistan.

More Details:

<http://lta.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idLTAL8N1MU2WK?rpc=401&>

- **Iran-Iraq ties strategic: Iraqi politician**

The relations between Iran and Iraq are strategic, said Leader of the National Iraqi Alliance on Wednesday. In a meeting with visiting Minister of Information and Communications Technology of Iran Mohammad-Javad Azari-Jahromi, Ammar al-Hakim appreciated Iran's prominent role in safeguarding Iraq's stability and integrity, and also contributing Iraq in fighting against terrorism. Al-Hakim said, 'Iraq's stability is a must for the stability of entire region, and it is a fact that has been proved.'

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82701255>

- **Iraq developments sends explicit messages to Washington and regional states**

Rapid developments in Iraqi Kurdistan which broke the back bone of the US backed secessionist plot for the Middle East shows the US is not the only key players in the region. Despite all warnings and oppositions from regional players, world major powers and some internal political Kurdish parties, on Sep 5 the Iraqi Kurdistan's head, Masoud Barzaini unilaterally hold independence referendum not

only to materialize his old unrealistic ambition but also to extend his illegal and undemocratic rule over the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128779/Iraq-developments-sends-explicit-messages-to-Washington-and-regional>

- **Kurdish region never wanted war with Iraqi army: KRG foreign minister**

The foreign minister of Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has said that the semi-autonomous region has never intended to engage in a confrontation with the Iraqi military. In an interview with broadcaster CNN, Falah Mustafa Bakir underlined the need for dialog between the KRG and Iraqi government in an attempt to achieve a common understanding.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/19/539110/Iraq-Kurd-army>

- **Iraq Will Remain United**

In June 2014, the cover of Time magazine echoed a sentiment common among pundits and outsiders: "The End of Iraq," it read. I am proud to say that three years later, thanks to the Iraqi armed forces and the Iraqi people, these predictions were wrong. Since then, Iraq has steadily dealt defeats to the Islamic State, also known as Daesh, a vicious enemy that has threatened our entire region and killed innocent people across the world. Now, having liberated cities including Mosul, Tal Afar and Hawija, Iraq is poised to drive out Daesh completely. Millions of people, forced out of their towns by barbaric terrorism, are going back home. Schools are reopening and doctors and nurses are returning to health clinics. We are beginning the enormous task of rebuilding our nation.

More Details:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/18/opinion/iraq-will-remain-united.html>

- **Baghdad asks BP to update Kirkuk oil fields in N. Iraq**

The Iraqi government asked BP to develop oil fields in Kirkuk in northern Iraq which came under the central government's control on Tuesday, a statement from Iraq's oil ministry said on Wednesday. On Monday, government forces captured disputed areas held by the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) and Kurdish Peshmerga forces including the oil-rich Kirkuk city, an area which had long been the subject of dispute between Baghdad and the Erbil-based KRG.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/economy/baghdad-asks-bp-to-update-kirkuk-oil-fields-in-northern-iraq/941331>



- **Germany suspends training of Kurdish fighters in Iraq**

Germany will suspend its mission training Kurdish Peshmerga fighters in northern Iraq because of the conflict between the Kurds and the Iraqi government, the German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday. The German government, which agreed on Wednesday on three-month extension of seven other foreign assignments for its armed forces, suspended the training of the Kurdish fighters as it sought to “always ensure the unity of Iraq.”

More Details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/0be68c7d-9871-4c77-89bb-d86fcfe8748.aspx>

- **Iraq's Kurd region halts preparations for Nov. 1 polls**

Northern Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) on Wednesday announced its decision to suspend preparations for KRG presidential and parliamentary elections slated for Nov. 1, APA reports quoting Anadolu Agency. “All preparations for the Nov. 1 polls have been temporarily suspended due to recent regional developments and a shortage of candidates,” the KRG's official electoral commission said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/asia-news/iraq-s-kurd-region-halts-preparations-for-nov-1-polls.html>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Syria war: UN says it is ready to go into Raqqa**

The United Nations is ready to get into the Syrian city of Raqqa after so-called Islamic State (IS) was driven out after three years. A UN official in Damascus told the BBC access to the area was the main priority while warning that some 300,000 people who had fled the city had "enormous" needs in nearby camps.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-41663617>

- **Al-Jaafari: Support offered to Israel makes it arrogant to perpetrate war crimes**

Syria's permanent representative to the UN, Bashar al-Jaafari, said on Wednesday that the support offered to Israel by UN permanent member-states makes it arrogant and encourages it to perpetrate violations that would be classified as war crimes and crimes against humanity. Al-Jaafari, during a UNSC session on the status in the Middle East, was astonished at the speech of Britain's envoy in

which he expressed pride of issuing Balfour declaration, legally known as “a declaration from who doesn’t own to another who doesn’t deserve.”

More details:

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=116066>

- **Israel's Rare Strike in Syria Is an Explosive Message Delivered Personally to Russia**

Hours after Israel's rare strike in Syria, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that, "If anyone tries to hurt us, we'll hurt them." What was defined by the Israeli army as a Syrian provocation in the morning had become a chance to reinforce Israel's red lines by the afternoon.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/1.817629>

- **Elite Syrian Army units move from central Syria to Deir Ezzor**

two large brigades from the Syrian Arab Army's (SAA) elite 4th Mechanized Division are being redeployed from central Syria to the Deir Ezzor Governorate, a military source told Al-Masdar this afternoon. According to the source, the 39th and 40th brigades were given instructions from the Syrian High Command to redeploy from the eastern countryside of the Hama Governorate to Deir Ezzor, where they will partake in the ongoing operations against the so-called Islamic State (ISIS).

More details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/exclusive-elite-syrian-army-units-move-central-syria-deir-ezzor/>

- **Senior Syrian commander killed in eastern city**

A media outlet affiliated with the Syrian military says a senior commander who led the fight against Islamic State militants in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour has been killed. The Central Military Media said on Wednesday that Brig. Gen. Issam Zahreddine was killed in Hawija Saqr, east of Deir el-Zour, in operations against IS militants. The Lebanese Al-Manar TV, which is close to the Syrian government, said a land mine killed him.

More details:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/18/latest-senior-syrian-commander-killed-in-eastern-city.html>

- **From Playground to Killing Ground: An ISIS Legacy**

It was never just a traffic circle. Not before Syria fell into civil war and the Islamic State moved into Raqqa, when there was lush grass and a fountain at its center, and children splashed in the heat of the summer and visited the Cafe al-Naem ice cream shop.

More details:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/18/world/middleeast/raqqa-syria-isis.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FSyria&action=click&contentCollection=world&region=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=collection](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/18/world/middleeast/raqqa-syria-isis.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FSyria&action=click&contentCollection=world&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=collection)

- **U.S.-backed campaign against IS in eastern Syria to speed up - SDF militia**

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which announced the defeat at Raqqa on Tuesday, will redeploy fighters from the city to frontlines with Islamic State in the eastern province of Deir al-Zor, Talal Silo told Reuters by telephone. Islamic State is already losing ground rapidly in Deir al-Zor, the last region where it has a significant foothold in Syria. The SDF and the Syrian government, backed by Russia and Iran, are fighting separate campaigns against the group there.

More details:

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-sdf/u-s-backed-campaign-against-is-in-eastern-syria-to-speed-up-sdf-militia-idUKKBN1CN1BA>

- **Syria, Iran stress ongoing military cooperation**

Syria's Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ali Ayoub agreed Wednesday with his Iranian counterpart Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri to boost military cooperation between both countries. Meeting in Damascus, both commanders discussed the achievements made in fighting terrorist groups in Syria, according to state news agency SANA.

More details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/18/c\\_136689632.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/18/c_136689632.htm)

- **Iran Pledges to Confront Israel after Attack on Syrian Air Defense**

The comments of the Iran's Chief of Staff come in the follow up to the attack of the Israeli Air Force on an anti-aircraft battery in Syria, which had allegedly shelled at Israeli warplanes as they were conducting a reconnaissance mission at the Syria-Lebanon border. The Syrian Army however said the Israeli aircraft violated Syria's airspace near the border with Lebanon in the early hours of Monday and therefore had been attacked by its defense systems.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201710181058346575-iran-israel-confrontation-syria/>

- **SAA Discovers ISIS's Chemical Workshop in Eastern Homs**

The precise combing of the heroes of the Syrian Arab Army and the engineering teams in the eastern Homs countryside continues after the elimination of the last gathering of remnants of the ISIS terrorist organization in the countryside. During the combing operations, the authorities found a workshop in the village of al-Rabia in one of the terrorist strongholds. It contained more than 100 types of primary chemical agents used by terrorist groups in their criminal operations.

More details:

<http://www.syrianews.cc/saa-discovers-isis-chemical-homs/>

### 3. IRAN

- **Iran nuclear deal: Khamenei denounces Trump's 'rants and whoppers'**

The supreme leader of Iran has defended the 2015 nuclear deal and used strong language to accuse US President Donald Trump of ranting and lying. "I don't want to waste time on answering the rants and whoppers of the brute US president," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said. Mr Trump has refused to certify to the US Congress that Iran is complying with the terms of the deal.

More details:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-41664231>

- **Euronews exclusive: Iran security chief labels Trump a liar**

With the Iran nuclear deal on increasingly shaky ground, Euronews' correspondent in Tehran, Javad Montazeri, asked the Secretary of the Supreme Council for National Security, Admiral Ali Shamkhani, for his view on the US, Europe and how relations with Iran are progressing. "Unfortunately, Trump is a liar. The US imposes sanctions on Iran, supports the growth of terrorism in Iraq and Syria, and bombards Yemen.

More details:

<http://www.euronews.com/2017/10/18/euronews-exclusive-iran-security-chief-labels-trump-a-liar>

- **Iran is violating the deal**

Iran is not only violating the spirit of the no-nukes deal, it is violating its letter. The prologue to the deal explicitly states: "Iran reaffirms that under no circumstances will Iran ever seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons." This reaffirmation has no sunset provision: it is supposed to be

forever. Yet the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently stated that it could not verify that Iran was “fully implementing the agreement” by not engaging in activities that would allow it to make a nuclear explosive device. Yukiya Amano of the IAEA told Reuters that when it comes to inspections, which are stipulated in Section T of the agreement, “our tools are limited.”

More details:

<http://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/355949-iran-is-violating-the-deal>

- **Iran calls for nuclear action against US accusing Washington of 'creating ISIS'**

Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei said the Trump administration is angry with Tehran for disrupting their plans in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. He added that "it is not acceptable for the Zionist regime to violate Syria any time it wants". It comes at a time of increased tensions between the two nations – after Donald Trump ruled out re-signing Barack Obama's nuclear weapons agreement with the Islamic Republic.

More details:

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/653221/Iran-news-nuclear-action-US-creating-ISIS-Ali-Khamenei-WW3-war-threat-Donald-Trump>

- **Iranian General Helped Iraqis Seize Kirkuk from U.S. Allies**

A few days after the Trump administration announced a new, get-tough approach to Iran, one of that country's top military commanders and the armed Shiite militias he supports played a key role in the seizure of an important Iraqi city from the U.S.-backed Kurds, according to Iraqi, Kurdish and American officials. Former U.S. national security officials told NBC News the Iranian-brokered seizure of oil-rich Kirkuk by the Iraqi government and its militia partners, which heightens the risk of civil war, amounts to an embarrassing strategic blow to the U.S. at the hands of Iran.

More details:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/mideast/iranian-general-helped-iraqis-seize-kirkuk-u-s-allies-n811026>

- **Battle for Kurdistan: Trump Betrays a U.S. Ally, Allowing Iran to Gain the Upper Hand**

Remember how only four days ago everyone was so worried that Donald Trump would destroy the nuclear deal with Iran? Well, he went ahead and “decertified” the deal, ostensibly opening up the way for Congress to impose new sanctions on Iran, which potentially could derail the agreement. But Congress doesn’t seem eager or capable of mustering a majority behind new sanctions, and meanwhile the other nations that signed the Iran deal, and of course Iran itself, are doing everything possible to keep it alive. Successfully, it appears.



More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iraq/1.817773>

- **Netanyahu's Challenge: Help Trump Fix or Scrap the Iran Deal**

Israel is wasting no time in trying to translate Donald Trump's call for a tougher approach to Iran into action. The government is making a diplomatic push to extend restrictions in the international nuclear deal with Iran to its development of ballistic missiles, sponsorship of terrorist acts and weapons proliferation to terrorist groups, three senior Israeli government officials said. The focus is on persuading U.S. and European lawmakers to strengthen "snapback" mechanisms to cover sanctions for Iranian activities that aren't directly connected to its nuclear program, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

More details:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-18/netanyahu-s-iran-challenge-is-helping-trump-fix-or-scrap-deal>

- **Iran sanctions uncertainty puts major oil companies in 'wait-and-see' mode**

Iran might appear to be increasingly isolated on the global stage but the country's deputy oil minister said Tuesday that it is on the verge of signing deals with major global oil and gas companies. Speaking in London, Amir Hossein Zamaninia said Iran was currently negotiating with more than 15 companies from Europe, Russia and Asia to conclude contracts that will open the country to massive oil and gas exploration, development and production.

More details:

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/10/18/iran-sanctions-uncertainty-puts-major-oil-companies-in-wait-and-see-mode.html>

- **Khamenei says Iran will shred multinational nuclear deal if US tears it: TV**

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday Tehran would stick to its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as long as the other signatories respected it, but would "shred it" if the United States pulled out, state TV reported. Khamenei spoke five days after U.S. President Donald Trump adopted a harsh new approach to Iran by refusing to certify its compliance with the deal, reached under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, and saying he might ultimately terminate it.

More details:

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/10/18/khamenei-says-iran-will-shred-multinational-nuclear-deal-if-u-s-tears-it-tv.html>

- **Iran filling vacuum following ISIS defeat in Iraq**

After the fall of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk and the evacuation of Kurdish fighters, the U.S. military must figure out how to keep Iraq from breaking apart while also preventing Iran from turning its neighbor into a proxy state. "Nearly every threat to peace and security in the Middle East is connected to Iran's outlaw behavior," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said Wednesday.

More detail:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/10/18/iran-filling-vacuum-following-isis-defeat-in-iraq.html>

#### 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Jerusalem Post Arab-Israeli Conflict**

Israeli troops raided the offices of eight Palestinian media and production outlets in the West Bank overnight Tuesday, suspecting them of distributing and broadcasting inciting material. During the joint operation carried out by IDF troops, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) and the Civil Administration, equipment and documents from channels affiliated with Hamas and Islamic Jihad were seized and two suspects were arrested, the IDF said in a statement.

More details:

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/IDF-raids-Palestinian-media-outlets-suspected-of-incitement-507738>

- **Israel Government to Construct Thousands of Settlement Units**

The European Union has requested clarifications from Israeli authorities over recent promotion of plans, tenders and permits for thousands of settlement units across the West Bank. This week, Israeli authorities further promoted plans, tenders and permits for thousands of settlement units across the West Bank, including, for the first time since 2002, in the heart of Hebron.

More details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/israel-government-to-construct-thousands-of-settlement-units/>

- **Gaza Power Watch: How Many Hours of Electricity Did Gaza Get Yesterday**

A severe electricity shortage in the Gaza Strip has left residents with as little as four hours of power a day, raising humanitarian concerns. For several years, Gaza residents received roughly eight hours a day, and many rely on gasoline-fueled generators. Others turn to large batteries to run household appliances, and a privileged few can afford solar panels.

More details:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/1.800735>

- **PPP: “Israeli Invasions and Closures Of Media Outlets Are State-Sponsored Terrorism”**

The leftist Palestinian People’s Party (PPP) issued a statement, Wednesday, strongly denouncing the Israeli military invasions into various Palestinian media outlets, violent searches and the orders to shut them down, and described them as “state-sponsored terrorism.” In its statement, the PPP said that the outrageous and violent invasions into the media outlets in Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus and Bethlehem, are just another Israeli round of escalation, part of the ongoing efforts to silence the media in occupied Palestine.

More details:

<http://imemc.org/article/pp9-israeli-invasions-and-closures-of-media-outlets-are-state-sponsored-terrorism/>

- **Israel raids Palestinian media firms for 'incitement'**

The Israeli military seized documents and equipment from the firms in the occupied West Bank, including the city of Hebron, in a series of overnight raids on Wednesday. Doors to offices were locked, with Israeli troops posting notices that the firms would remain closed for the next six months. Two employees of TransMedia, a satellite broadcasting facility, were arrested.

More details:

<http://www.dw.com/en/israel-raids-palestinian-media-firms-for-incitement/a-41008340>

- **Israeli forces raid Palestinian media companies 'linked to Hamas'**

Israeli military forces raided multiple Palestinian media offices in the occupied West Bank early Wednesday in what an army spokeswoman called a "large-scale operation" against incitement. The raids came hours after the Israeli government declared that it would not recognize an emerging unity government that includes Hamas unless it made radical changes, such as recognises Israel and hand over its weapons.

More details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/10/18/israeli-forces-raid-palestinian-media-companies-linked-to-hamas>

- **Iran's UN envoy: Israeli occupation of Palestine source of Middle East conflicts**

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo says Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories is the origin of all problems in the Middle East. "The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands is the core... of all conflicts in the Middle East. The injustice has been continuing for more than seven decades, exacerbated through Israeli expansionist and aggressive policies towards Palestinians and the whole region," said Khoshroo on Wednesday while addressing a UN Security Council debate.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/18/539093/Iran-Israel-Palestine-Middle-East>

- **Kuwaiti Official Orders Israel Delegates to 'Get Out'**

A Kuwaiti official yesterday told the Israeli delegation to leave the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference which is being held in Russia. Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim told the Israeli delegation: "You should pack your bags and get out of the hall after you saw the reactions of the world's honourable parliaments."

More details:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/kuwaiti-official-orders-israel-delegates-to-get-out/>

- **Mass Arab Emigration to Jordan Would Solve Israel's Palestinian Problem, Suggests Conference**

"Everybody knows that Jordan is a Palestinian State," said MK Yehudah Glick at the Jordanian Option Conference in Jerusalem on Tuesday. Nearly every other speaker at the conference agreed that the Jordan 'option' is a satisfactory solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. According to conference organizers, the 'Jordan is Palestine' solution "calls for Jordan to be the Arab state and Israel to the Jordan River, to be the state of the Jews." To these ends, Israel would incentivize and encourage local Arabs to immigrate to Jordan.

More details:

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/96422/move-palestinians-jordan-free-israel-urges-conference-middle-east-peace/#/>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Despite unity deal, Jordan won't let Hamas reopen Amman office**

The Jordanian government will not allow the Palestinian terror group Hamas to reopen its offices in the kingdom, despite a recently inked reconciliation deal between rival Palestinian factions, a leading Jordanian daily reported on Thursday.

More Details:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/despite-unity-deal-jordan-wont-let-hamas-reopen-amman-office-report/>

- **Jordan welcomes joint literature seminar with China**

Amman, capital of Jordan, ushered in the "Second Sino-Jordan Silk Road Literature Seminar" on Oct 14. Pan Weifang, Chinese ambassador to Jordan, together with the chairman of Jordan Writers Association, a delegation of Chinese writers and nearly 50 literary celebrities attended the seminar.

More Details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/arts/2017-10/19/content\\_41757706.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/arts/2017-10/19/content_41757706.htm)

- **Jordan's unemployment reaches 18%**

Jordan's unemployment rate has hit 18 per cent in the second quarter of the current year compared to 14.7 per cent during the same period in 2016, the state's Department of Statistics (DOS) announced today.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171019-jordans-unemployment-reaches-18/>

- **Jordanian FM, Iraqi counterpart discuss relations**

The Jordanian Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs, Ayman Safadi, and his Iraqi counterpart, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, have discussed the crisis in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302639552>



- **FG Partners US, UK, Jordan to Acquire Sophisticated Technologies to Fight Boko Haram**

The federal government on Tuesday said it was partnering the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK) and Jordan to acquire sophisticated technologies to combat Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast.

More Details:

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2017/10/18/fg-partners-us-uk-jordan-to-acquire-sophisticated-technologies-to-fight-boko-haram/>

- **MP Khoury hopes government will succeed in solving budget accounts' auditing issue**

MP Walid Khoury on Thursday indicated that the state budget law needed a constitutional amendment following 12 years of failure to endorse it. Interviewed by Voice of Lebanon radio station, Khoury hoped that the government would be able to resolve the budget accounts' auditing issue within the deadline set by the Parliament.

More Details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/84470/MP-Khoury-hopes-government-will-succeed-in-solving-budget-accounts-39-auditing-issue>

- **Head of IRIB visits Beirut, signs agreements on media cooperation**

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting and Lebanon's Hezbollah movement have signed a memorandum of understanding on expanding cultural and media cooperation. The document was signed during the IRIB director's visit to the Lebanese capital Beirut. Press TV correspondent Rana Aladdin has the details.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/19/539101/Head-of-IRIB-visits-Beirut-signs-agreements-on-media-cooperation->

- **Hariri Defends Govt. Productivity, Says Sunnis 'Not Frustrated'**

Prime Minister Saad Hariri defended his government on Wednesday in the face of criticism from several MPs, as he denied claims that the Sunni community in Lebanon is "frustrated."

More Details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/236956-hariri-defends-govt-productivity-says-sunnis-not-frustrated>

- **Lebanon appreciates Speaker Al-Ghanim's speech on Israel at IPU conf.**

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri on Wednesday voiced his gratitude to Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim for his speech, as the latter slammed the Israeli remarks on jailed Palestinian MPs. Speaking to the parliament, Berri thanked Al-Ghanim for his stance, which forced the Israeli delegation to leave the talks.

More Details:

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2651375&Language=en>

- **Global support for JCPOA big victory for Iran against US: Lebanon president**

Lebanese President Michel Aoun says the international community's support for the Iran nuclear deal in the face of US President Donald Trump's policies is a great political victory for Tehran and global diplomacy.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/202667.html>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Bahrain accuses Iran of harboring terrorists**

Bahrain's interior minister on Wednesday accused Iran of harboring 160 Bahrainis convicted of terrorism and stripped of their citizenship. All 160 "fugitives" had been stripped of citizenship in "terrorism cases" targeting Bahraini police and security forces, Sheikh Rashed Al-Khalifa was quoted by AFP as having told the Arabic-language daily Asharq Al-Awsat.

More Details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236909>

- **Bahrain International Defence Exhibition a huge success**

Bahrain International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BIDEC) turned out to be a huge success with the participation of top military experts from all over the world, said HH Lieutenant-Colonel Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday adding: "The dream has always been great, but the reality has become even more beautiful."

More Details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=38790&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=50>

- **Tanzania: Oman Assures Tanzania of Commitment to Industrial Growth**

The King of Oman, Sayyid Al Said, has assured Tanzania of his country's commitment to investing in industries, oil and gas as well as adding value to minerals being extracted in the country. The commitment will also cover the energy sector, increased investments in Bagamoyo as well as help to grow Tanzania's economy fast.

More Details:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201710190151.html>

- **Ithraa hosts 'Invest in Oman' forum in Geneva**

Oman-based Ithraa, the sultanate's inward investment export development agency, in partnership with Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently held a one-day Invest in Oman Forum at Geneva's Hotel President Wilson, Switzerland.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND\\_331792.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/IND_331792.html)

- **New Saudi body to discredit terrorist use of Islamic teachings**

Islamic scholars have welcomed a Saudi royal decree to establish a religious centre that will monitor interpretations of Prophet Mohammed's Hadiths to prevent extremists from using them to justify acts of terror and violence.

More Details:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/gcc/new-saudi-body-to-discredit-terrorist-use-of-islamic-teachings-1.668550>

- **UAE set to announce cabinet reshuffle Thursday: PM**

"Today we will reveal changes in the UAE cabinet to refresh blood and to be as a motivation to change as well as a preparation for the next stage of UAE Centennial Plan," Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum tweeted.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/19/539116/UAE-cabinet-reshuffle>

- **GOP Senator Stalls Trump Nominee over Saudi Handling of U.S. Aid for Starving Yemenis**

Sen. Todd Young (R-Ind.) on Wednesday indicated that he's willing to prevent the Senate from confirming a key Trump administration pick until the State Department determines whether Saudi Arabia — a longtime U.S. partner especially close to President Donald Trump — is violating American law by hindering relief efforts in Yemen.

More Details:

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/gop-senator-holds-up-trump-nominee-over-saudi-block-of-us-aid-for-starving-yemenis\\_us\\_59e7a5abe4b08f9f9edc7660?section=us\\_politics](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/gop-senator-holds-up-trump-nominee-over-saudi-block-of-us-aid-for-starving-yemenis_us_59e7a5abe4b08f9f9edc7660?section=us_politics)

- **Emir's visit brings Qatar and Indonesia closer**

His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Indonesian President Joko Widodo held wide-ranging talks on ways to enhance bilateral relations and develop areas of co-operation, particularly in economy, energy, investment, tourism and infrastructure at Bogor Presidential Palace in Jakarta yesterday

More Details:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/567959/Emir-s-visit-brings-Qatar-and-Indonesia-closer>

- **Qatar's growing economic problems**

Qatar is easily the richest country in the world on a per capita basis. According to a study released in March by Global Finance Magazine that used data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the gross domestic product (GDP) of a Qatari citizen on average is a staggering \$129,726 (based on 2016 international dollars and the inclusion of purchasing-power-parity adjustments). Nevertheless, Qatar is facing severe economic headwinds that could end up having grave consequences for the small oil-and-gas rich state.

More Details:

<https://internationalbanker.com/finance/qatars-growing-economic-problems/>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Archaeologists find part of 4,000-year-old statue in Egypt**

Egypt says archaeologists have discovered the head of a wooden statue, likely belonging to a female regent who ruled the country more than 4,000 years ago. Wednesday's statement by the Antiquities

Ministry says the artifact was found in the district of Saqqara, near the ancient Pyramids of Giza. It says the part of the statue is in poor condition and will have to undergo restoration

More details:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/egypt-archaeologists-find-part-4000-year-statue-50553964>

- **Gunman shoots dead Egyptian worker in Libya, injures 6 others**

A gunman shot dead on Wednesday Egyptian Abdallah al-Shweih, 28, and injured six others in the Libyan city of Benghazi. Sheweih's mother, Samia Ibrahim al-Hussaini, 50, who lives in Oish al-Hagar village in Mansoura, said that her son traveled to Libya in 2015 to provide her and his sister with a monthly income.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/gunman-shoots-dead-egyptian-worker-libya-injures-6-others/>

- **Egypt yet to receive invite for Astana talks**

Contrary to reports from Russian news agency TASS, Egypt has not yet received a formal invitation to participate in the Syria peace talks in Astana. TASS claimed on Monday that an invitation has been sent to Egypt, citing "an Egyptian source familiar with the situation." But Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad Abu Zeid told Arab News on Tuesday that no such invitation had been received. "Egypt will consider

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1179881/middle-east>

- **Egypt increases school fees by 45%**

The Egyptian Education Ministry has increased public school fees across all student levels by 40 to 45 per cent, Ahram Online reported yesterday. Fees for children attending kindergarten have increased from 45 Egyptian pounds (\$2.5) to 65 pounds (\$3.7); while secondary and technical schools have seen an increase of 30 Egyptian pounds (\$1.7) per year. Such expenses are particularly difficult for families in rural areas to afford, many of whom lack a basic education themselves.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171018-egypt-increases-school-fees-by-45/>



- **Egypt rights groups demand release of leading dissident**

Ten major Egyptian rights groups on Wednesday urged an appeals court to free Alaa Abdel Fattah, a leading dissident in the 2011 uprising that toppled strongman Hosni Mubarak. The court of cassation, which handles appeals, is set to rule Thursday on the activist's case after he was sentenced to five years in prison over an illegal protest.

More details:

<http://www.enca.com/africa/egypt-rights-groups-demand-release-of-leading-dissident>

- **Egypt draws \$1.8b investments for 1.4 gigawatts of solar**

Egypt's fledgling solar industry attracted \$1.8 billion (Dh6.6 billion) of investment, largely from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank's International Finance Corp. The EBRD is backing 16 photovoltaic projects, and the IFC is financing 13 in the sunny North African nation with a combined capacity of 1.4 gigawatts. They are writing loans for \$380 million and \$203 million, respectively, and have mobilised the rest from co-investors.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/business/sectors/energy/egypt-draws-1-8b-investments-for-1-4-gigawatts-of-solar-1.2108486>

- **Egypt receives submarines built by France, Germany**

A military drill of Egyptian and French naval forces was conducted, including the two new additions to the Egyptian fleet, in the Atlantic Ocean during their voyage to Egypt. The ENS Al-Fateh, the name given to the Gowind, was handed over to Egypt last month at a ceremony in the French city of Lorient. Egypt received the German submarine a month earlier in the German city of Kiel.

More details:

<http://apanews.net/index.php/en/news/egypt-receives-submarines-built-by-france-germany/>

- **Egyptian government making headway in fight against Cairo's "black cloud"**

The Egyptian government is making noticeable progress in its fight against the black cloud — a thick layer of smog from burning rice straw that spreads across Cairo and the Nile Valley for several weeks after the rice harvest each autumn. This year, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment has convinced farmers to stop burning rice straw and instead collect it and hand it over to the government in order to be recycled and turned into other products.

More details:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/10/egypt-progress-black-cloud-smog-rice-farming-nile-valley.html>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria denies reports of government reshuffle**

The Algerian prime minister's office denied on Tuesday reports of a cabinet reshuffle. A statement by the premier's office said information given by certain sources regarding plans for government's restructuring or cabinet reshuffle.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171018-algeria-denies-reports-of-government-reshuffle/>

- **Macron fails to condemn 1961 massacre of Algerians in Paris**

French president Emmanuel Macron is under fire for his failure to officially condemn the massacre of 300 Algerians in Paris in 1961. This as the families of the victims gathered to remember and denounce French police's atrocities against peaceful demonstrators.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/10/18/538995/Emmanuel-Macron-1961-massacre-of-Algerians-in-Paris>

- **Workshop on illegal migration held in Tripoli**

Under the auspices of the GNA Ministry of Local Government and in partnership with the Libyan Expert Forum for Development Cooperation (LEF), a Libyan NGO which includes the UNDP as a member, a workshop on illegal migration, entitled "Illegal migration: Between the pressure of arrivals and human traffickers and programmes of the West to solve the problem on Libyan soil" was held in Tripoli on Tuesday.

More Details:

<https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/10/19/workshop-on-illegal-migration-held-in-tripoli/>

- **Libya: Gaddafi's son and heir Saif al-Islam returns to frontline politics**

Six years after Libyans toppled their 40-year ruler Muammar Gaddafi from power in a U.S.-backed revolution, the former leader's son and heir apparent to his father's regime, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, has announced his return to frontline politics.

More Details:

[http://www.newsweek.com/libya-gaddafis-son-and-heir-saif-al-islam-returns-frontline-politics-687899?piano\\_t=1](http://www.newsweek.com/libya-gaddafis-son-and-heir-saif-al-islam-returns-frontline-politics-687899?piano_t=1)

- **UN torture prevention body to make first visit to Morocco**

The United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) is due to make its first visit to Morocco from 22 to 28 October to advise the Government on the establishment of a national detention monitoring body officially known as the National Prevention Mechanism (NPM). The SPT will also assess the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty and the measures taken for their protection against torture and ill-treatment.

More Details:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22260&LangID=E>

- **Morocco's GDP to Reach USD 121.4 Billion in 2017: African Development Bank**

For the first time, Morocco's GDP is forecasted to exceed MAD 120 billion. According to a statistical bulletin of socioeconomic indicators in Africa, the performance of the Moroccan economy almost doubled in the last 12 years, from USD 65.62 billion in 2006 to 121.42 billion in 2017.

More Details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/10/231467/moroccos-gdp-african-development-bank-economy/>

- **Arab world enters a "new era of democratic transition" says Ghannouchi**

The leader of Tunisia's Ennahdha Party Ghannouchi says while the region was now entering a "new era of democratic transition," the process of democratisation had been more successful in Tunisia than in other countries.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/arab-world-enters-a-new-era-of-democratic-transition-says-ghannouchi-11462>

- **Kerkennah boat collision: Caid Essebsi receives PM**

The urgent measures to provide attention to the families of victims of the collision between an illegal migrant boat and a Navy vessel on October 8 were the focus of President Beji Caid Essebsi's meeting on Wednesday with Prime Minister Youssef Chahed.

More Details:

<https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Politics/9478692-kerkennah-boat>

- **Tunisia keen to enhance bilateral trade ties with Pakistan: Envoy**

Tunisian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Adel Elarbi said on Wednesday that his country wanted to boost bilateral trade ties with Pakistan.

More Details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/tunisia-keen-to-enhance-bilateral-trade-ties-with-pakistan-envoy/>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Taliban attack Afghanistan army camp, killing 43**

The Taliban have killed at least 43 Afghan soldiers in an attack that wiped out an army camp in the southern Kandahar province, the Defence Ministry said today. Spokesman Dawlat Wazir said the attack yesterday involved two suicide car bombs and set off hours of fighting. He says nine other soldiers were wounded and six have gone missing. He said 10 attackers were killed.

More Details:

[http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/article9915901.ece?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS&utm\\_campaign=RSS\\_Syndication](http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/article9915901.ece?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=RSS_Syndication)

- **UN Strongly Condemns ‘Terrorist Attacks’ in Paktia**

The members of the Security Council issued a statement late Wednesday condemning in the “strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attacks” that took place in Paktia, Ghazni and Kabul province in the past few days – which killed in total at least 70 people and wounded over 200 others.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/un-strongly-condemns%C2%A0%E2%80%98terrorist-attacks%E2%80%99%C2%A0%C2%A0paktia>

- **Millions of Afghan girls do not go to school: HRW**

Two-thirds of Afghan girls do not attend school due to growing insecurity and poverty, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday, underlining the challenges of educating women in the patriarchal country 16 years after the Taliban were ousted.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/asia/millions-of-afghan-girls-do-not-go-to-school-hrw-11475>

- **ISIS in Afghanistan is US tool to cause trouble in whole region – ex-Afghan President Karzai to RT**

The US uses the Islamic State insurgency as a tool in Afghanistan, aimed at destabilizing the whole region, the former Afghan president told RT, urging the international community to convince the US that it needs to actually fight terrorism.

More Details:

<https://www.rt.com/news/407134-isis-afghanistan-us-tool-karzai/>

- **Pakistan hails new Afghan border fence to curb militancy**

Pakistan's military took the rare step of flying international media to the border with Afghanistan Wednesday to showcase its efforts to harden the porous, militancy-wracked frontier: a chain-link fence shrouded in barbed wire.

More Details:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4994398/Pakistan-hails-new-Afghan-border-fence-curb-militancy.html>

- **Ousted Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif Indicted For Corruption**

An anti-corruption court in Pakistan has indicted ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter and son-in-law, in connection with leaks last year that appeared to show his family owned offshore shell companies they used for the secret purchase of high-value London real estate.

More Details:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/10/19/558710036/ousted-pakistani-premier-nawaz-sharif-indicted-for-corruption>

- **Conspirators will remain but conspiracies will be thwarted: NA speaker**

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said that enemies of the country wanted to create rifts between state institutions, which would prove to be dangerous.

More Details:

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/10/19/conspirators-will-remain-but-conspiracies-will-be-thwarted-na-speaker/>

- **Pakistani media widely covers Iran's Supreme Leader remarks**

Pakistani electronic and print media widely covered the remarks made on Wednesday by Iran's Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who said Tehran would stick to the nuclear deal as long as other signatories respect it.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82701268>

- **Pakistan Foreign Secretary calls on PM**

Visiting Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Ms. Tehmina Janjua called on Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe at his office yesterday (18th Oct.) in Colombo. The Prime Minister welcomed the visit of the Foreign Secretary and emphasized that Pakistan and Sri Lanka needed to expand trade and economic ties between the two countries.

More Details:

<https://www.news.lk/news/political-current-affairs/item/18409-pakistan-foreign-secretary-calls-on-pm>

- **Pakistan's Tehreek-i-Taliban Confirms Death of Its Top Leader**

Pakistan's Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) on Wednesday confirmed the death of Umar Mansoor, one of the group's top leaders and who allegedly was responsible for carrying out several deadly attacks in Pakistan.

More Details:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/pakistan-tehreek-i-taliban-confirms-death-of-its-leader/4077097.html>

## 10.TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Yildirim, Jahangiri discuss Syria, Iraq**

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım met with Iranian First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri in capital Ankara on Thursday. According to Anadolu, Yıldırım and Jahangiri discussed the latest developments in Syria and Iraq, and other regional and international issues during the closed-door meeting at Çankaya Palace, a prime ministry source said.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/128787/Yildirim-Jahangiri-discuss-Syria-Iraq>

- **Turkish jets hit terrorist PKK positions in northern Iraq**

Turkish jets have destroyed shelters and weapon emplacements of the PKK terrorist group in northern Iraq, the military announced on Thursday. In a written statement, the Turkish military said that the airstrikes targeted the PKK camps located in Zap region Wednesday.

More Details:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/10/19/turkish-jets-hit-terrorist-pkk-positions-in-northern-iraq>

- **Syrians refusing to return to PKK-held territory: Aide**

Though tens of thousands of Syrian refugees have returned to their homes in areas rid of Daesh, they do not want to return to areas controlled by the terrorist PYD/YPG, the Syrian branches of the terrorist PKK, a Turkish presidential spokesman said Wednesday. Ibrahim Kalin said that Turkey liberated more than 2,000 square kilometers of territory from Daesh during Operation Euphrates Shield, which started last August and ended this March, and that around 100,000 Syrian refugees have since returned to their homes.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syrians-refusing-to-return-to-pkk-held-territory-aide/941365>

*\*This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler**. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.*

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