

Turkey kills top Kurdish commander: Erdogan

Author:

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Mon, 2021-05-17 21:22

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday that Turkish forces had killed a top Syrian Kurdish commander during an offensive in neighboring Iraq.

The Turkish army last month launched a new ground and air offensive against militants from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party dubbed Operation Claw Lightning.

Erdogan said the military push had eliminated a Syrian-born "terrorist" who used the nom de guerre Sofi Nurettin.

He said Nurettin had served as the PKK's top military commander in Syria. Nurettin "was neutralized by the operation carried out in northern Iraq," Erdogan said in televised remarks.

The PKK – listed as a terror group by Ankara and much of the international community – has been using Iraq's northern mountains as a springboard in its decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state.

The Turkish army regularly conducts cross-border operations and air raids against PKK bases in northern Iraq.

Turkey launched another operation in February against PKK rebels holed up in the northern Iraqi region of Dohuk.

That raid created controversy because it was designed in part to rescue 12 Turkish soldiers and an Iraqi held captive by the PKK in a cave.

Turkey accused the PKK of executing the 13 men before they could be freed. Erdogan said on Monday that Nurettin bore partial responsibility for the 13 deaths.



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[Kurdistan Workers' Party \(PKK\)](#)

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Erdogan government slammed after Daesh members revealed as Turkish nationals
Erdogan rivals surge in polls ahead of 2023 Turkey election

[Egypt, Sudan agree to reach deal for operation of Renaissance Dam](#)

Author:

Mon, 2021-05-17 21:19

CAIRO: Egypt and Sudan affirmed during a meeting in Paris, France that the issues related to the Renaissance Dam are a matter of national security.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Chairman of Sudan's Sovereignty Council and Commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces Abdel Fattah El-Burhan

reviewed the latest developments during the talks.

They said that the two countries would agree to reach a fair and binding legal agreement regarding the process of filling and operating the Renaissance Dam in a way that takes into consideration the common interests of all parties involved.

The talks also focused on developments along the Ethiopia-Sudan border, as well as issues related to crises in the region, and called for cooperation to continue between Egypt and Sudan.

President El-Sisi praised the strong relations between the two countries, expressing Egypt's aspiration to deepen their ties in a way that contributes to achieving mutual interests, especially at the security, military and economic levels.

El-Sisi affirmed Egypt's keenness to participate in the International Conference to Support the Sudanese Transition, which has the aim of achieving political and economic stability in Sudan.

The Egyptian president also referred to the link between Sudanese national security and that of Egypt and the historical ties that bind the two Nile Valley nations.

He highlighted Egypt's commitment to supporting the Sudanese government achieve economic stability, eliminate its accumulated debt and reduce its financial burdens.

Egypt will take part in the international initiative to settle Sudan's debt by using its share with the International Monetary Fund.

El-Sisi praised the steps that Sudan is taking in the direction of structural economic reform.

"These measures reflect a real political will to make the transitional stage successful," he said, adding that Egypt was ready to apply its experience in economic reform in training Sudanese cadres.

El-Burhan expressed Sudan's deep appreciation for Egypt's efforts to support the country during its transitional phase.

"Such efforts are embodied in the president's keenness to personally participate in the current Paris conference to support Sudan, consolidating the strength of extended ties between the two countries," said El-Burhan.

He affirmed that there were broad prospects for developing cooperation between the two countries and underlined Sudan's eagerness to provide a supportive environment to this end.



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Sudan PM stresses need to reach binding agreement on Renaissance Dam
Egypt: Ethiopia refuses mediation to solve Renaissance Dam crisis

[Gaza bombardment causes widespread death, destruction](#)

Author:

Sun, 2021-05-16 22:04

GAZA CITY: For the seventh day in a row, Israeli warplanes on Sunday bombed various parts of the Gaza Strip, causing widespread destruction and killing dozens of Palestinians, many of them women and children.

In the fiercest wave of bombing, warplanes targeted Al-Wehda Street in the center of Gaza City after midnight, killing 42 Palestinians, including 16 women and 10 children, and wounding about 50 others.

Israeli missiles completely destroyed three homes – two of them belonging to the Al-Kulak family and the other to the Abu Al-Auf family.

Dalal Al-Kulk, 33, and her 2-year-old son were among the survivors of the bombardment. She could not talk after her husband Mohammed and three of her daughters were killed.

Her father Ahmed Al-Maghribi waited outside the destroyed house for the bodies of the three daughters to be removed.

They had remained under the rubble for about 15 hours before they were removed by the Palestinian Civil Defense.

"I can't describe my feelings of sadness, fear and anger. My daughter is now in shock. Her husband and three of grandchildren are martyrs," Al-Maghribi said.

"I don't know how they'll live the rest of their lives. Our life in Gaza is full of fear, terror. There's no safety anywhere. Every person here on the street carries his own story, all of them pain and exhaustion."

The Palestinian Ministry of Health on Sunday evening said 192 Palestinians had been killed since the start of the Israeli bombardment, including 58 children and 34 women.

Israeli warplanes targeted a building hundreds of meters from Al-Wehda Street, causing partial destruction and killing at least one of its residents.

Ayah Aloul, 25, was lying in hospital next to her mother. They were injured by the bombing after the death of Aloul's father.

"I'm very afraid ... The bombing began violently in the area where I live. Suddenly I found myself in the street with my mother, and above us was a lot of rubble," Aloul told Arab News.

"I started with all my strength to lift the rubble off me. I don't know where all this strength came from," she added.

"I started running until I found a street with lights on. I started screaming loudly until the neighbors came, and I told them I want to get my mother out from under the rubble, but they insisted that they take me by ambulance to the hospital. I saw my mother in the hospital shortly after." Referring to her wounds, Aloul said: "I don't know how I'll live with my face like this."



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Israel kills 42 in Gaza as Netanyahu warns war will go onAs Palestinians observe 'Nakba' worldwide, Israeli forces go on rampage in Gaza

[Israeli paramedics: 2 dead in synagogue bleacher collapse](#)

Author:

Sun, 2021-05-16 21:48

JERUSALEM: Israeli medics say two people are dead and more than 150 injured in a bleacher collapse at a West Bank synagogue.

The bleacher was packed with ultra-Orthodox worshippers and collapsed during prayers at the beginning of a major Jewish holiday.

A spokesman for Magen David Adom told Channel 13 that paramedics had treated over 157 people for injuries and pronounced two dead, a man in his 50s and a 12-year-old boy.

Rescue workers are on the scene, treating the injured and taking people to the hospital. The collapse comes weeks after 45 ultra-Orthodox Jews were killed in a stampede at a religious festival in northern Israel.

Amateur footage showed the collapse occurring during prayers Sunday evening in Givat Zeev, just outside Jerusalem, at the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot. The ultra-Orthodox synagogue was packed with hundreds of people. The Israeli military said in a statement that it dispatched medics and other search and rescue troops to assist at the scene. Army helicopters were airlifting the injured.

Israeli authorities traded blame at the scene of the disaster.

The mayor of Givat Zeev said the building was unfinished and dangerous, and that the police had ignored previous calls to take action. Jerusalem police chief Doron Turgeman said the disaster was a case of “negligence” and that there would likely be arrests.

Deddi Simhi, head of the Israel Fire and Rescue service, told Israel’s Channel 12 that “this building is not finished. It doesn’t even have a permit for occupancy, and therefore let alone holding events in it.”

Television footage from the scene showed the building was incomplete, with exposed concrete and boards visible.

The accident comes weeks after a stampede at a religious festival in northern Israel that killed 45 ultra-Orthodox Jews.

The stampede triggered renewed criticism over the broad autonomy granted to the country’s politically powerful ultra-Orthodox minority.

Last year, many ultra-Orthodox communities flouted coronavirus safety restrictions, contributing to high outbreak rates in their communities and angering the broader secular public.





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Israeli police assault Sky News Arabia reporter in Jerusalem Israel kills 42 in Gaza as Netanyahu warns war will go on

[Jordan's king says diplomatic efforts under way to halt Israel's military campaign](#)

Author:

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Sun, 2021-05-16 16:05

AMMAN: Jordan's king said his country was involved in intensive diplomacy to halt what he described as Israeli military escalation that has led to the worst eruption of violence in years.

King Abdullah II "affirms that there are intensive efforts and contacts with all international actors to stop the dangerous Israeli escalation and protect the lives and property of the Palestinian brothers," a statement from the Royal Court said.

The king reaffirmed "that no country is more supportive of the Palestinians than Jordan," and stressed the "unwavering position" of the Jordanians.

The monarch, whose ruling family has custodianship of Muslim and Christian sites in Jerusalem, has in recent days warned that Israel's military campaign was risking major instability in the region.

At the UN Security Council meeting convened today, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said that "Israel, as the existing occupation force, carries responsibility for the dangerous situation in occupied Palestinian land and what it is causing in violence, killings, destruction and suffering."



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Israel kills 42 in Gaza as Netanyahu warns war will go on UN chief says
Israel, Gaza fighting 'utterly appalling'