

[Yemen condemns Houthi militia's targeting of civilians in Hodeidah](#)

Sun, 2020-11-29 23:04

RIYADH: Yemen's human rights ministry on Sunday condemned in the strongest terms the Iranian-backed Houthi attack, which killed 11 civilians, including five children and three women, and wounded six others, all of them in critical condition.

The "massacre" struck the village of Al-Qaza in Al-Durayhimi district, south of Hodeidah, the Yemeni News Agency (Saba) said, adding that "the terrorist Houthi militia bombed the homes of (these) citizens in the village."

The ministry said: "These crimes come in light of suspicious silence from the international community, which is satisfied with only expressions of condemnation and regret without standing in front of the crimes committed by the Houthi militia against civilians."

The ministry also stressed that this massacre should not go unpunished, as it comes within a continuous approach through which the Houthi militia "punishes the regions that reject its sectarian ideology based on killing, forced displacement and the spread of sectarianism and racism."



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Eight killed in militia mortar strike on Yemeni village4 killed in southern Yemen province as Arab coalition bombs Sanaa

[UAE records 1,251 new coronavirus cases](#)

Sun, 2020-11-29 22:51

DUBAI: The UAE on Sunday recorded one death and 1,251 new coronavirus cases.

The Ministry of Health and Prevention said that the total number of cases since the pandemic began had reached 167,753, with the death toll now at 570.

The ministry added that 736 people had recovered over the previous 24 hours, bringing the total number of recoveries to 154,185.

On Saturday, Abu Dhabi Ports said that it would store and distribute 70 million coronavirus vaccines to continue to play “a vital role in the global fight against COVID-19, using its enhanced logistics capabilities.”

As part of [#Abu Dhabi-led #HopeConsortium @AbuDhabiPorts](#) is playing a vital role in the global fight against COVID-19, using its enhanced logistics capabilities to store and distribute more than 70m COVID-19 vaccines as part of its commitment to the immunisation drive. pic.twitter.com/m0UHvw6kbk

– مكتب أبوظبي الإعلامي (@admediaoffice) [November 28, 2020](#)

The vaccines will be stored at Khalifa Industrial Zone (KIZAD), a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports, and is part of the Hope Consortium initiative launched by Abu Dhabi last month that “aims to serve as a logistics platform to coordinate and facilitate the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine around the world.”

Jamal Mohammed Alkaabi, undersecretary of Abu Dhabi’s Department of Health, said that the emirates “continues to play a vital role within the global effort to discover a vaccine for COVID-19. And as part of those efforts, we are providing logistical capabilities that will position the UAE as a distinguished local, regional, and global distribution hub.”

Meanwhile, Robert Sutton, head of Logistics Cluster, Abu Dhabi Ports, said: “Abu Dhabi Ports’ ability in expanding capacity to receive and store clinical, pharmaceutical and life science materials at moderate and extreme temperature ranges is a testament to our commitment to offer world-class logistics solutions.

“Our Department of Health-licensed facility fully integrates the movement of cargo with state-of-the-art temperature, humidity, and refrigeration-controlled technology. Abu Dhabi Ports, through our highly advanced infrastructure and multimodal connectivity, is ready and able to meet the challenges of distributing sensitive pharmaceuticals quickly across the supply chain,” he said.

Elsewhere, Kuwait recorded 231 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, bringing the total to 142,426. The death toll reached 878 after three new fatalities were registered.

تعلن [#وزارة_الصحة](#) عن تأكيد إصابة 231 حالة جديدة، وتسجيل 524 حالة شفاء، و 3 حالات وفاة جديدة بـ [#فيروس_كورونا_المستجد](#) COVID-19 ، ليصبح إجمالي عدد الحالات 142,426 حالة pic.twitter.com/loIYVRIks2

– [@KUWAIT_MOH](#) [November 29, 2020](#) وزارة الصحة – الكويت

Oman’s Health Ministry said that its total number of cases had reached 123,484 and the death toll was 1,418.

[#Statement](#) No. 233

November 29. 2020 pic.twitter.com/VxsXVopvMS

– [@OmaniMOH](#) [November 29, 2020](#) وزارة الصحة – عُمان

In Bahrain, zero deaths was reported, keeping the toll to 341, while 142 new infected cases were confirmed.

Out of 9845 COVID-19 tests carried out on 29 November 2020, 142 new cases have been detected among 59 expatriate workers, 78 new cases are contacts of active cases, and 5 are travel related. There were 192 recoveries from [#COVID19](#), increasing total recoveries to 84977 pic.twitter.com/M07HwGC8wW

– [@MOH_Bahrain](#) [November 29, 2020](#) وزارة الصحة | مملكة البحرين



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UAE cabinet approves new cybersecurity body, climate change envoy
Israel ratifies aviation, scientific cooperation deals with UAE

[Libyan deputies pledge to end divisions](#)

Author:

AFP

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Sat, 2020-11-28 20:00

TANGIER: More than 120 Libyan deputies pledged Saturday in Morocco to “end the divisions” that undermine their country, starting by convening the elected parliament as soon as they return home.

The House of Representatives has not met for two years, and Libya has been wracked by violence and chaos since the toppling and killing of dictator

Muammar Qaddafi in 2011.

Two rival administrations have been vying for control of the country – the Government of National Accord and an eastern administration backed by part of the elected parliament.

The latter is deeply divided, with sessions taking place in parallel in the east and west.

At the end of five days of talks in Tangier, Morocco, 123 of the parliament's 180 members pledged on Saturday to put an end to "hate speech" and "divisions" that undermine Libyan institutions.

They vowed to hold "parliamentary elections and to complete the transition as soon as possible," and that all members of the House of Representatives would meet in session "as soon as they return" to Libya.

The session will take place in Ghadames, a desert oasis near Libya's borders with both Algeria and Tunisia.

Ghadames is considered to be far from the centers of power.

"Having 123 deputies at the same table is in itself a success," Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita said.

"Libya needs a House of Representatives that plays its role... The next meeting in Libya will have a great impact on political dialogue," he said.

The talks come at a time of increasing moves to break the deadlock in the country, which has Africa's biggest oil reserves.

In mid-November, a UN-sponsored political dialogue forum in Tunis agreed to hold elections on December 24, 2021, but not on who will lead the transition.



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German defense minister rejects Turkey complaint over Libya weapons ship

[Five years on, calls continue for justice over killing of Kurdish lawyer](#)

Author:

Sat, 2020-11-28 21:55

ANKARA: Kurdish lawyer and prominent human rights activist Tahir Elci's murder remains unsolved five years after his death amid claims that intelligence neglect may have played a part in the killing.

Elci was a key figure in Turkey's human rights movement and was also known globally for his efforts to represent human rights' violations before the European Court of Human Rights.

Nov. 28 marks the fifth anniversary of his assassination while giving a press statement as the head of the Diyarbakir Bar Association in Turkey's southeastern Kurdish-majority city in 2015 to protest armed clashes between security forces and the youth wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

At least 43 international lawyers and human rights organizations joined forces to demand justice for Elci and his family with a joint declaration on Nov. 27. "We are concerned that the prosecution, as well as the court before which this case is being heard, fails to respect fair trial rights. We are further troubled by the Turkish authorities' continued violation of Turkey's international legal obligations to carry out a prompt, effective, impartial and independent investigation into the death of one of its citizens and to ensure a fair trial by an impartial and independent tribunal for those accused of the killing of Tahir Elci," they said.

His wife, Turkan Elci, wrote a song in Kurdish, "Hewar" (Cry), on the fifth anniversary of his death.

In an exclusive interview with Arab News, Turkan Elci said that the judicial process around her husband's killing fitted with the general atmosphere of impunity in Turkey.

She said that the independence of the judiciary could only be ensured if it was not under the influence of the executive: "A judge must decide according to the principles of universal law, the constitution and the law, as well as according to his own conscientious opinion. But it is a very remote possibility for the Tahir Elci case."

Elci's lawyers continue to try to ensure that his case file, started only five years after the murder, is not closed and are calling for the identification of the real perpetrators as they believe this is no ordinary

assassination.

Following his comments about the outlawed PKK, which he said was not a terror organization but an armed political movement, Elci faced a “lynching” campaign in the mainstream media up until his death.

A 13-second section of the video footage from police cameras is missing, although Elci was killed within that time frame. The police have also failed to locate the bullet that shot him.

Forensic Architecture, a London-based independent research group, examined footage of the murder and determined that the three police officers at the scene were the most likely suspects. If the three officers accused of killing Elci are convicted they will face two to nine years in prison.

According to Ayse Bingol Demir, a human rights lawyer and co-director of the Turkey Human Rights Litigation Support Project, ensuring a fair trial is extremely important for several reasons.

“First, Tahir Elci was a human rights lawyer who was killed while advocating ... for ending the violence in the Kurdish region. He was a prominent figure in the human rights community, especially known for his fight against impunity and systemic human rights violations committed by the state security forces,” she told Arab News.

For Demir, Elci’s killing in broad daylight – in the presence of the press and many others – and the failure of the judiciary to carry out an effective investigation into the incident, has had a severe impact not only on his family but the wider community in Turkey.

“Second, the main issue in this case is a violation of Tahir Elci’s right to life, one of the core rights under international human rights law. Tahir Elci’s family are entitled to the right to truth, access to justice, and an effective remedy for the violation they and their loved ones have been subject to,” she said.



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Cover-up claims as police face trial over killing of Kurdish lawyer
Death of Kurdish lawyer on hunger strike sparks outcry

[Coronavirus threatens festive season in Lebanon](#)

Sat, 2020-11-28 21:20

BEIRUT: The two-week lockdown in Lebanon to limit the spread of coronavirus ends on Sunday, but the continued high number of infections and deaths may limit the options of the government committee tasked with restoring normal life in the country.

On Saturday, owners of shops, stores, restaurants and cafes protested against measures that would keep their businesses closed, especially as the lucrative festive season approaches.

“If the state decides to continue closing our institutions during the festive season, these tourist establishments will declare their bankruptcy,” Jean Beirouti, secretary-general of the Federation of Tourism Trade Unions, told

Arab News.

Darkness prevails in Beirut markets that are usually vibrant at this time of year. "Black Friday didn't activate any commercial movement," Yehya Kasaa, chairman of the Lebanese Franchise Association, told Arab News.

"We don't know how long it will be possible to hold out if a good government isn't formed. Politics in Lebanon is fighting the economy," he said.

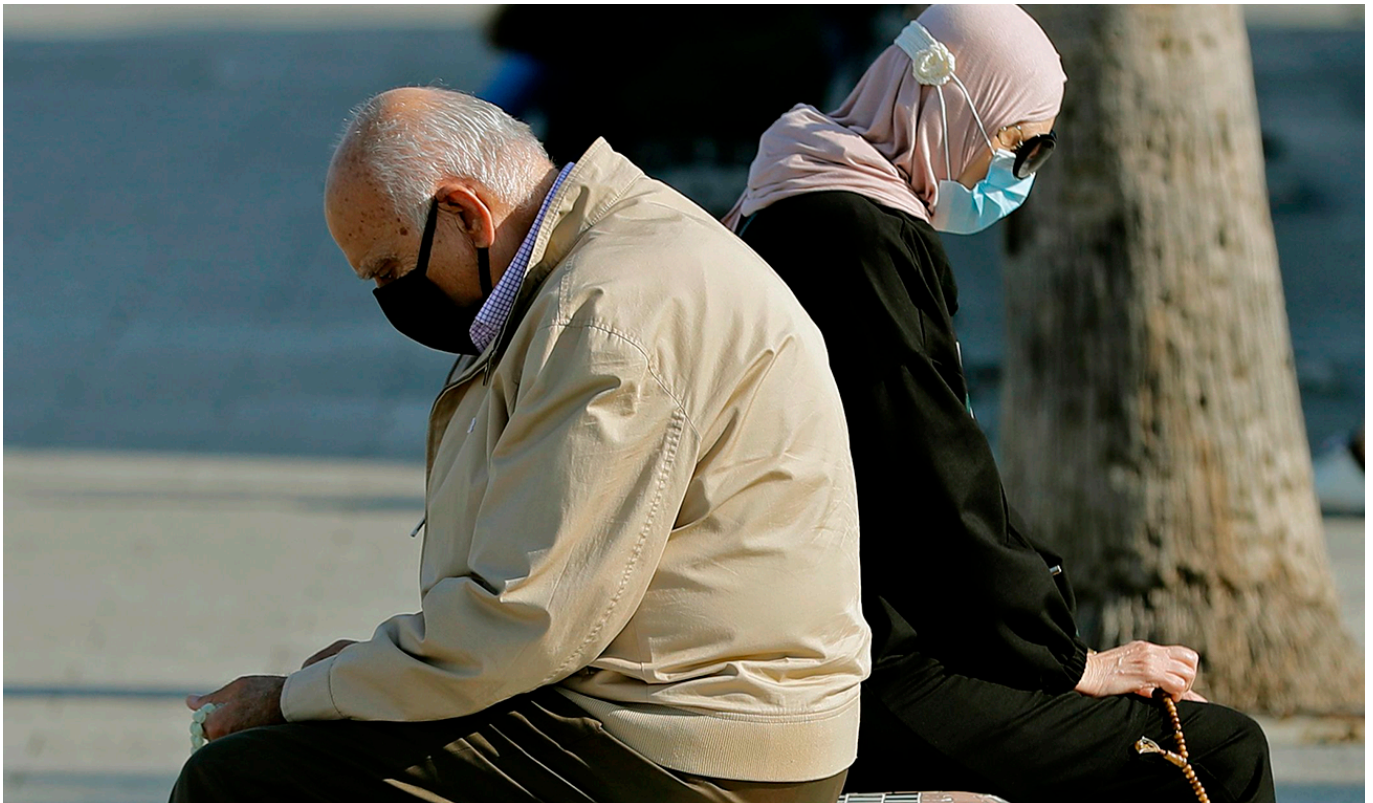
"Staying at home indeed provides safety for everyone, but in a country like Lebanon, which suffers economically, it's impossible. People need to work and earn their daily living," he added.

"The franchise sector used to provide work for 100,000 workers. Now half of them have lost their jobs due to the economic crisis. Moreover, the Beirut Port explosion destroyed 70 percent of the sector, especially in central Beirut, and these shops haven't reopened yet."

As of Saturday morning, there were more than 35,000 violations of the lockdown recorded by security forces.

"People are groaning from the difficult economic situation we're in," said Col. Joseph Mousallem, head of the Information Branch at the Internal Security Forces.

"The decline in the number of infections hoped by the Ministry of Health didn't happen during the lockdown."



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