



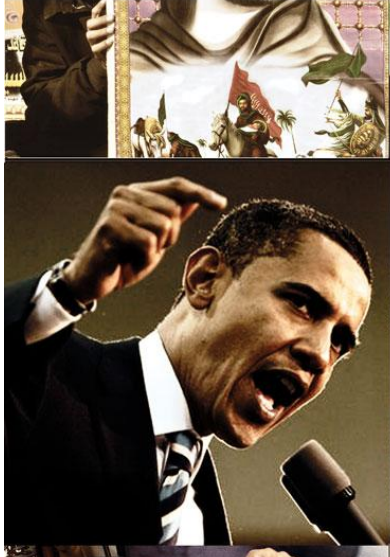
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GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

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1. IRAQ / IRAK

• Türkiye'den Barzani'ye 23 madde

Türkiye'de görüşmelerde bulunan Mesud Barzani'ye 23 maddelik bir teklif sunulduğu, Barzani'nin teklifi ve görüşmeleri PKK'ya aktardığı, PKK'nın ise Öcalan'ı işaret ettiği belirtildi



PKK'nın etkisizleştirilmesi, dar bölgeye hapsedilmesi ve silah bırakmasına yönelik plana ağırlık veren hükümet, Kürt yönetimi üzerindeki baskılarını artırıyor. Kürt yönetimi lideri Mesud Barzani'ye, örgütün silah bırakmasına kadar gidecek süreci kapsayan 23 maddelik yol haritası sunulduğu, Kürt yönetiminin ise 9 maddeye çekince koyduğu öğrenildi. Türkiye, Kuzey Irak'ta Soran ile Bahdinan bölgesini bağlayan stratejik bölgede askeri üs kurmayı amaçlıyor ve bu kapsamda Barzani'ye baskı yapıyor.

Barzani'den askeri üs istendi

Türkiye'deki görüşmelerinde askeri seçenek hariç, Türkiye'ye her türlü desteği vereceğini açıklayan Barzani, istenilmesi halinde arabuluculuk görevi de üstlenebileceğini belirtmişti. Barzani'nin Türk heyetine "Biz askeri seçenek hariç desteğimizi sürdüreceğiz. 90'lı yıllarda yapılan operasyonlarda Türkiye'ye gereken desteği sunduk, ancak hala çözüme ulaşılmış değil" dediği belirtildi.

Erdoğan, Dışişleri Bakanı Ahmet Davutoğlu ve MİT Müsteşarı Hakan Fidan'ın katıldığı görüşmede, Kürt yönetiminden kritik bir talepte bulunduğu, Soran bölgesi ile Bahdinan bölgesi koridorunda yer alan Harir ve Halifan ilçeleri arasındaki stratejik bir noktadaki askeri karargâh ve helikopter pistinin Türk güvenlik güçlerince kullanılmasının talep edildiği belirtildi.

Türkiye'nin İran-Irak savaşında Irak ordusunun helikopter üssü olarak kullandığı bölgede askeri üs kurmayı amaçladığı ifade edildi.

Buraya kurulması düşünülen askeri üssün örgütün Kandil-Bahdinan bağlantısını keseceği, Dohuk bölgesinde bulunan örgütün Gare ve Metine bölgelerini de

yakından kontrol imkanı sağlaacağı öğrenildi.

Görüşmeyi Selahattin’de PKK’ya iletti Milliyet’in Kuzey Irak’taki güvenilir kaynaklardan elde ettiği bilgiye göre, Barzani, İstanbul’dan döndükten sonra örgüt yönetimine hükümetin, “yeni ateşkes ya da silah bırakma şartı”nı aktardı. Örgütün yönetim kademesi ile Selahattin kentinde görüşen Barzani Türkiye’nin planını anlattı. Örgütün iki numarası Murat Karayılan’ın ise “Liderimiz 3 ayı aşkın süredir tecrit edilmiş, kendisine ulaşamıyoruz. Ateşkese de silah bırakmaya da liderimiz karar verir” diyerek Öcalan’ı işaret ettiği belirtildi.

İşte o yol haritası

İstanbul’da MİT’in de katıldığı görüşmede Barzani’ye sunulan yol haritası özetle şöyle:

- Havalimanları İnterpol denetimine açılsın.
- Türk askerinin bölgede kalış pozisyonları yeniden düzenlensin.
- Kandil ve etrafında iletişimi dinleyecek elektronik sistemler kurulsun.
- PKK’dan ayrılıp bölgede yaşayanların listesi güncellensin.

- Lider kadronun ayrılanların ifadelerine başvurulsun.

- Sınır karakolları inşa edilsin.

- Üçlü mekanizmanın (ABD, Kürt yönetimi, Türkiye) istihbarat ve fiziki koşulları güçlendirilsin.

- Uludere, Çukurca ve Şimdinli ilçelerinden Kuzey Irak’a 9 ana noktadan geçiş yapılıyor. Bu geçiş noktaları arttırılsın.

<http://www.dunyabulteni.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=183552>

- **'Türk askeri altı yıl daha Kuzey Irak'ta'**
Kuzey Irak'taki Kürt yönetimi lideri Mesud Barzani, Ankara ziyaretinde "Türkiye ile Kürt bölgesinin güvenliği birbirine bağlı" dedi. Kuzey Irak'ta konuşlu Türk birliklerinin süresi altı yıl daha uzatıldı.



Kuzey Irak'taki Kürdistan Yönetimi Başkanı Mesud Barzani'nin Ankara ziyaretinde öncelikli gündem güvenlikti. Barzani'nin ilk mesajı “Türkiye ile Kürt Bölgesi'nin güvenliği birbirine bağlı” oldu. Görüşmelerde 1996’dan beri K. Irak’ta

konuslu bulunan Türk askeri birliklerinin durumu masaya yatırıldı.

Taraf gazetesinin haberine göre, talep üzerine birliklerin altı yıl daha K. Irak'ta kalması konusunda prensip anlaşmasına varıldı. İkinci önemli konu ise PKK'nın K. Irak'taki hareketliliğini kısıtlamak için yeni bir üs talebi idi.

TÜRKİYE YENİ ÜS İSTEDİ

Örgütün stratejik üstlenme alanları olan Hakurk, Zap ve Kandil dağı arasındaki geçişleri önlemek için Türkiye, Çiyaye Sipi adı verilen bölgede yeni bir üs kurmayı talep etti.

Barzani'nin yeşil ışık yaktığı belirtiliyor. Ayrıca Çukurca saldırısından sonra Türkiye'nin, örgütün K. Irak'taki iletişimini kontrol altına almak için Çaykurna bölgesine yerleştirdiği istihbarat üssüyle ilgili çalışmaların da tamamlandığı öğrenildi.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297607/>

- **İran'la Irak arasında askeri flört**

Irak'taki ABD güçlerinin bu ülkeyi terk etmesine çok az bir süre kala, İran ve Irak

orduları arasında işbirliği yolunda adım atıldı.



ABD güçleri, bu yılın sonunda tamamiyle Irak'tan çekilecek.

TAHRAN - "ABD'nin terk edeceği Irak, İran'ın kontrolüne geçer" tezini destekleyen bir gelişme yaşandı.

İran ve Irak silahlı güçlerinin komutanlarından, iki ülke arasındaki askeri işbirliğinin geliştirilmesi konusunda hemfikir olduğu açıklaması geldi.

İran televizyonunun internet sitesine göre, Devrim Muhafızları Komutanı Tümgeneral Muhammed Ali Caferi, Irak Genelkurmay Başkanı Korgeneral Babakir Zebari ile görüşmesinin ardından yaptığı açıklamada, "Irak'la paylaştıkları uzun sınırdan dolayı savunma konusunda en iyi askeri işbirliğini sağlayabileceklerini" belirtti.

"Bölgede ve bölge dışında İran ve Irak'ın ortak düşmanlarına karşı işbirliği yapabileceklerini" söyleyen Ali Caferi, "bu işbirliğinin, güvenlik, ortak tatbikatlar ve uzmanlık paylaşımı gibi alanlarda yapılabileceğini" kaydetti.

Ali Caferi ayrıca, General Zebari ile birlikte birçok niyet mektubunun da imzaladığını açıkladı.

Zebari de açıklamasında, "İran'la uzun bir sınıra sahip olduklarını ve işbirliği sayesinde bazı sorunların çözülebileceğini, bu sorunların çözümünde İran'ın uzmanlığından yararlanabileceklerini" söyledi.

Zebari dün de, İran Devrim Muhafızları Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanı Tuğgeneral Muhammed Pakpur'la görüşmüştü.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297199/>

- **141 yıllık petrol devi Exxon'a Kuzey Irak'ta kafa tutan 'Türkler'!**

Eski BP CEO'su Tony Hayward'ı CEO yapan Genel Energy ile İngiliz Vallares ortaklığı, Ankara merkezli şirketle Kuzey Irak'ta devlerle rekabete hazırlanıyor. Genel 10 yıldır bölgede ve en fazla sahaya sahip. Exxon, Chevron, ENI ise sahaya giriş

hazırlığında



ŞÜKRÜ ANDAÇ Erbil

Kuzey Irak'ta sekiz ortağıyla, altı farklı bölgede petrol sahası bulunan, bunlardan ikisinde petrol üretimine başlayan Çukurova grubu şirketlerinden Genel Energy, İngiliz Vallares ile yaptığı ortaklık anlaşma sonrası kasasına 2 milyar dolar koyarak ciddi hedef büyüttü. Kendi içindeki ortaklık yapısında konsolidasyon hedefleyen ve ortak sayısını azaltmayı planlayan şirket bunun dışında bölgede 4-5 beş sahayı da yatırım hedefleri içine aldı. İlk hedef DNO'nun hisselerini almak.

2002'den bu yana Kuzey Irak'ta iş yapan ve bölgede en çok sahaya sahip olan Genel Energy, bir yandan yeni yatırım planları yapıyor diğer taraftan da bölgeye adım atmaya hazırlanan dünyanın en büyük petrol şirketi ABD'li Exxon Mobil'le rekabete hazırlanıyor. Bölgeye 6 sahaya adım atan Exxon'la birlikte Kuzey Irak'ta petrolde oyunun değişmesi bekleniyor. Kuzey Irak'ta 40'ın üzerinde şirket petrol

arama ve üretimi için çalışıyor. Kuzey Irak'ta 50 milyar varil kadar petrol rezervi olduğu düşünülüyor.

Genel Enerji bugüne kadar Kuzey Irak'a kendi bütçesinden 400 milyon dolar, ortakları ile birlikte toplam 1.2 milyar dolarlık yatırım yaptı. 2012 yılı için toplam 600 milyon dolar yatırım planı var. Taq-Taq-Yumurtalık boru hattı projesiyle bu rakamın ikiye katlanması öngörülüyor.

Fiyatlar zirveye oynuyor

Kuzey Irak'ta bir araya gelen Genel Energy'nin kurucularından Mehmet Sepil ve Vallares ortaklığıyla kurulan yeni şirkette CEO'luk koltuğuna otaracak olan Tony Hayward (eski BP CEO'su) Exxon'un gelişinin kendileri için sürpriz olmadığını, buna karşılık 6-8 ay sonra gelselerdi kendilerinin daha çok mutlu olacaklarını ifade etti. 'Dünyanın en büyük şirketi yaptığı politik analizde Kuzey Irak'ta yatırım için doğru bir zaman' diyorsa bunun bölgenin potansiyeli adına önemli olduğunu kaydeden Sepil, bölgede ciddi konsolidasyon yaşanacağını bundan kendilerinin de ciddi planlarla avantajlı çıkma adına çalıştıklarını söyledi.

Chevron ile ENI sırada

ABD'li petrol devi Exxon'un ardından bölgeyi yakından takip eden Amerikan Chevron ve İtalyan ENI'nin yatırım adına birkaç ay içinde etkili adımlar atacağı ifade ediliyor.

Kuzey Irak'ta önemli olan konunun nakit olduğunu ifade eden Vallares'in CEO'su Tony Hayward ise, "Yeterli nakitle burada çok güzel işler yapılabilir. Bizim de 2 milyar dolarımız var. Onu bu bölgede de kullanabiliriz, başka yerlerde de. Sahip olduğumuz petrol sahası çok kuvvetli. Kapasitesini çok zorlayabiliriz" dedi.

<http://ekonomi.milliyet.com.tr/141-yillik-petrol-devi-exxon-a-kuzey-irak-ta-kafa-tutan-turkler-ekonomi/ekonomidetay/16.11.2011/1463365/default.htm>

- **El Nuceyfi: Salahattin İlinin Özerklik Talebi Yasal Bir Taleptir**

Bugün sürpriz bir şekilde Salahattin ilini ziyaret eden Irak Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nuceyfi ilin özerklik talebinin yasal olduğunu söyledi.

Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nuceyfi Salahattin il meclisinin özerklik talebinin yasal olduğunu ve bakanlar kurulunun

buna karşı çıkmaya hakkı olmadığını ifade etti.

Konuya ilişkin Salahattin valiliği enformasyon sorumlusu Muhammet El Asi bir açıklama yaptı. El Nüceyfi'nin sürpriz bir şekilde Salahattin ilini ziyaret ettiğini belirtten El Asi, Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nüceyfi'nin Salahattin ilinin özerklik talebini yasal olarak nitelediğini söyledi.

Salahattin ili meclisinde geçtiğimiz günlerde yapılan oylamada özerklik talebi kabul edilmişti. İl meclisinin talebine karşı çıkan başbakan Nuri Maliki talebin Bakanlar Kurulu tarafından reddedileceğini Salahattin il meclisinin bu talebinin Baas partisine yataklık etme anlayışı taşıdığını söylemişti.

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6593>

- **EL NÜCEYFİ'DEN BAKANLIKLAR İPTALİ**

Parlamento Başkanı Usame El Nüceyfi daha çok konuşulacak bir açıklamada bulundu.5 bakanlığın iptal edilmesini isteyen El Nüceyfi bakanlıklara verilen yetkiler yerel yönetimlere verilmelidir, dedi.

Parlamento başkanı Usame El Nüceyfi yeni kriz yaratacak bir açıklamada bulundu.

El Nüceyfi 5 bakanlığın lağvedilmesini istedi.

5 bakanlığın iptal edilmesini isteyen El Nüceyfi bakanlıklara verilen yetkiler yerel yönetimlere verilmelidir, dedi.

Beklenmeyen bir açıklamada bulunan El Nüceyfi, Bakanlıkların geniş bir yetki yelpazesine sahip olmaları, illerin çalışmalarına engel teşkil ettiğini belirtti ve bakanlıklara verilen yetkilerin yerel hükümetlere verilmesini istediklerini açıkladı.

El Nüceyfi, Parlamento binasında Valiler ve İl Meclis üyeleri ile yaptığı toplantıda yerel hükümetlere daha geniş yetki verilmesini istediklerini bildirdi.

El Nüceyfi'nin iptalini istediği Bakanlıklar, Belediyeler, Tarım, imar ve Bayındırlık ve Çalışma ve Sosyal Bakanlıkları olduğu bildirildi.

El Nüceyfi, Bakanlıkların geniş bir yetki yelpazesine sahip olmaları, illerin çalışmalarına engel teşkil ettiğini belirtti.

Parlamento Başkanı sorunların çözümünde ve illere verilen hizmetlerde Hükümetin başarısız olduğunu belirterek, illerin daha özgürce yetki kullanmasında, iptali istenen Bakanlıkların yetkilerini, il meclislerine verilmesini talep etti.

El Nuceyfi, illerle ve merkezi Hükümet arasında işbirliği düzenleyen yüksek komisyon kurulması için hükümetten iller yasasının 45. maddesini aktif hale getirmesini de talep etti.

El Nuceyfi illerdeki işsizliği azaltmak için atamaların yapılması, yatırım projelerinin gerçekleştirilmesi ve merkezi hükümet ile yerel yönetimler arasında yeni yasalar ve kanunlar çıkarılması gerektiğini sözlerine ekledi

ALİ KASAP / TÜRKMENELİTV HABER MÜD.

- **Irak Türkmenlerinden “savunma” açıklaması**

Irak Türkmen Cephesi; “ABD askerleri çekildikten sonra kendimizi korumak zorunda kalabiliriz” açıklamasında bulundu.



Irak Türkmen Cephesi (ITC) Başkanı Erşad Salihi, Amerikan askerlerinin Irak’tan çekilmesinin ardından doğabilecek gerginlikte kendilerini kormak zorunda kalabileceklerini söyledi.

ITC il başkanları olağan üstü toplantısında Kerkük’te son durum ile ABD askerlerinin Irak’ta çekilmesi ve Türkmenlerin kaçırılma ve öldürülme konuları görüşüldü.

Toplantı sonrası Cihan’a konuşan ITC Başkanı Erşad Salihi, Türkmenlerin son günlerde hedef haline geldiğini ifade ederek, bu konuda merkezi hükümetin sesiz kalmasını anlayamadıklarına dikkat çekti.

Irak Türkmenlerinin can güvenliğinin ele alınması için bir komisyon kurulmasını istediklerini kaydeden Salihi, “Sıkıntılarımızı başta Cumhurbaşkanı’na ve diğer yetkililere dilekçe ile bildirdik. Bu

konuda acil bir komisyonm toparlanmasını istiyoruz. Türkmenler kaçırılıyor ya da öldürülüyor. Bunun önüne geçmek istiyoruz. Türkmenlerin geleceği tehlikede. Bu konuda siyasi engeller var. Irak hükümeti bu konuyu ciddi bir şekilde önemsemiyor.” dedi.

Türk dünyasındaki siyasi ve sivil örgütlerden hukuk danışmalarına kadar Türkmenlerin neden hedef oldukları konusunda bir inceleme komisyonu isteyen Salih, “Irak’ın içindeki siyasi pazarlıkların yapıldığı Sünni, Şii ve Kürt dağılımında Türkmenleri yaşadıkları bu bölgelerden silme politikasının devam edeceği görülüyor. Buna karşı sessiz kalmayacağız. Bu sebeple herkesten destek istiyoruz.” şeklinde konuştu.

ABD askerlerinin Irak’tan çekilmesinin ardından Türkmenlerin korunmaması durumunda Türkmenlerin kendilerini koruyacaklarına dikkat çeken Salih, şunları söyledi: “ABD askerleri Irak’tan çekilecek. Bu çekilme ile birlikte gerginlik olabilir. Türkmenlerin korunmasında sıkıntı olabilir. Yaşadıklarımız bunu gösteriyor ki Irak hükümetinden bize destek gelmeyecek gibi. O zaman da Türkmenler kendi kendilerin koruyacak. En azından

herkes kendi mahallesini korumaya geçecekler.”

Dünya Bülteni/Haber Merkezi

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6579>

- **Iraq will not recall envoy to Syria**

By Hamza Mustapha and Sawsan Abu-Husain

Baghdad, Cairo, Asharq Al-Awsat- Iraq’s Ambassador to Cairo Qais AL Azzawi stressed that he did not think that his country could recall its ambassador to Syria, while Saad al-Matlabi, leading member of Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki’s State of Law Coalition, considered Iraq’s abstention from voting on the resolution adopted by the Arab League on Syria as "the compromise solution required for such issues."

In a statement to Asharq Al-Awsat Al-Matlabi has said: "Through this decision [abstention], Iraq has reiterated a firm stance, namely not resorting to the internationalization of Arab issues, because this can open the door to other issues and problems faced by other countries in our Arab region."

According to Al-Matlabi, "The resolution adopted by the Arab League Council on Syria is one of the grave resolutions adopted at the level of future Arab action. This is because the next step is going to the United Nations, which means opening the doors for the internationalization of many issues and problems of the other countries, including for instance Bahrain, which also witnesses violence."

The Iraqi Member of Parliament stressed that , "If we resort to the internationalization of the Syrian issue at a later stage, in case the commitments are not implemented, then we ought to have adopted similar resolutions about other Arab countries."

"We all know very well that Al-Qaeda organization now has started to be active in Syria to the extent that groups (Al-Qaeda) have started to decapitate people by sword, the same as they did in Iraq, and hence silence over such issues is something that arouses many questions." Al-Matlabi added.

With regard to whether Iraq will adhere to the resolution and recall its ambassador to Damascus, Al-Matlabi told Asharq Al-

Awsat, "I exclude the possibility of recalling the Iraqi ambassador to Damascus under such circumstances, especially as the situation of Iraq with regard to Syria is different from that of the other Arab countries; this is not because of a political or any other reasons, but it is because of the existence of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis in Syria." Al-Matlabi considers, "Recalling the ambassador means that the presence of these Iraqis under the current circumstances faced by Syria means leaving them to face a storm."

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27324>

- **U.S. defense chief clashes with senators over Iraq**



Defense Secretary Leon Panetta expressed optimism over Iraq's ability to grapple with its own challenges and the ability to deal with Iran. (Reuters)

By PHIL STEWART AND DAVID ALEXANDER
REUTERS WASHINGTON

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta rejected accusations at a heated Senate hearing late Tuesday that U.S. politics helped drive the decision to completely withdraw from Iraq this year without leaving any troops behind as trainers.

The Oct. 21 drawdown announcement by President Barack Obama followed failed negotiations with Baghdad to secure an immunity deal that the Pentagon made a precondition for keeping any U.S. military trainers in the country.

Panetta put the blame squarely on Iraqi politics, with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki unable to push an immunity deal through parliament.

But prominent Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee questioned whether U.S. politics also played a role, with Obama - an early opponent of the Iraq war who campaigned on a promise to end it - facing a re-election battle in 2012.

In a particularly heated exchange, Senator John McCain flatly told Panetta he did not believe his version of events. He suggested that the Obama administration

failed to provide Iraq the facts and figures it needed to make a decision.

“The truth is that this administration was committed to the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. And they made it happen,” said McCain, who lost the 2008 election to Obama.

Panetta responded forcefully: “Senator McCain, that’s just simply not true. I guess you can believe that ... but that’s not true.”

General Martin Dempsey, who as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the top U.S. military officer, said he and others at the highest level of the Pentagon had been encouraged by Panetta and Panetta’s predecessor, Robert Gates, to lobby Iraqi military leaders to accept some sort of training mission.

“We were all asked to engage our counterparts, encourage them to accept some small permanent footprint,” Dempsey said.

The Iraq withdrawal announcement followed a June decision by Obama to bring a third of American troops home

from Afghanistan by the end of next summer - a faster pace than the U.S. military had recommended. During both announcements, Obama assured Americans that, after a decade of constant conflict, the tide of war was receding.

The two decisions have fueled criticism by Republicans that Obama is ignoring battleground realities in order to bring the two costly, bloody wars to a conclusion.

“I think it’s no accident that the troops are coming home (from Afghanistan) two months before his (2012) election,” said Senator Lindsey Graham.

“And if you believe that to be true, as I do, I don’t think it’s an accident that we got to zero (in Iraq).”

Asked by Graham whether questions about fallout from Obama’s Democratic base ever came up in discussions on Iraq, Panetta replied: “Not in any discussions that I participated (in).”

Graham and other lawmakers raised concerns about the fate of 3,000 Iranian refugees at Camp Ashraf in Iraq once U.S. forces withdrew. The camp is a base of the

People’s Mujahideen Organization, a group that opposes the Tehran government and launched attacks into Iran before the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Baghdad has been seeking to close the camp and rights groups say the residents have been harassed and denied access to basic medicine by the Baghdad government.

“Do you think the people in Camp Ashraf, do you think they’re going to get killed? What’s going to happen to them?” Graham asked.

Dempsey said U.S. diplomats were working to ensure Iraqis provided protection for the refugees. Lawmakers warned that if Baghdad violated its commitment to protect them it would lead to strained relations with Congress.

About 24,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq, down from a peak of about 190,000 during the height of former President George W. Bush’s troop surge in 2007.

Panetta and Dempsey acknowledged that Iraqi security forces will face numerous challenges once U.S. troops withdrew.

Dempsey said he saw a moderate risk of an Arab-Kurdish conflict over the oil reserves around Kirkuk. He also cited the important role U.S. surveillance and transport aircraft played in counter-terrorism missions.

Still, he and Panetta expressed optimism over Iraq's ability to grapple with its own challenges and the ability to deal with Iranian. Panetta said he believed Maliki saw Iran as "having a destabilizing influence in that part of the world."

"My view is that the region largely rejects Iran and its intentions. And I think Iraq is at the top of that list," Panetta said.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/16/177449.html?PHPSESSID=s91g9p5e2e7q3m500klophcbb5>

2. IRAN / İRAN

• İran'dan Türkiye'ye nükleer teklif

Nükleer santral kurma aşamasındaki Türkiye'ye, nükleer programı nedeniyle

batının hedefinde olan İran'dan bir teklif geldi.



Güncelleme: 19:08 TSİ 15 Kasım. 2011 Salı
NEW YORK - Üst düzey İranlı yetkili Muhammed Cevad Laricani, ülkesinin, tartışmalı nükleer teknolojisini komşularıyla paylaşmaya istekli olduğunu ve Türkiye'ye nükleer santral inşasında yardım edebileceğini söyledi.

Laricani, New York'ta gazetecilere yaptığı açıklamada, "nükleer teknolojilerini komşu ülkelerle paylaşmaya çok hazır olduklarını" ifade etti.

Laricani, "Türkiye yıllardır nükleer enerji santrali yapmaya çalışıyor, ancak Batı'da hiçbir ülke onlar için inşa etmeye istekli değil" dedi.

Muhammed Cevad Laricani, bu bağlamda Nükleer Silahsızlanma Anlaşması çerçevesinde Ortadoğu'daki diğer ülkelerle de işbirliği yapmaya hazır olduklarını belirtti.

İran İnsan Hakları Yüksek Konseyi ile Matematik ve Fizik Enstitüsü'nün başkanı olan Muhammed Cevad Laricani, aynı

zamanda parlamento başkanı Ali Laricani'nin kardeşi.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297548/>

3. ISRAEL - PALESTINE / İSRAİL – FİLİSTİN

- **One killed in Israeli strike on Gaza**

Medical officials say Hamas policeman killed in air strike, after rocket was fired earlier in the day into Israel.

An Israeli air strike on a compound in the northern Gaza Strip has killed one Palestinian and wounded at least three others, doctors say.

Palestinian medical officials said that the strike late on Sunday night targeted a naval base used by Hamas, killing a policeman.

The mayor of Beit Lahiya, Izzedine Dahnoun, said an electricity transformer supplying northern Gaza from Israel was damaged by the blast, knocking out power to some 100,000 people.

The Israeli military said the air strike "hit a terror activity centre in the northern Gaza

Strip" after a rocket was fired into Israel hours earlier, causing no injuries.

The rocket had been fired into the Shaar Hanegev area of southern Israel, north of Gaza, the Israeli military said.

Israel has said that it holds Hamas responsible for any cross-border rockets fired into its territory.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/201111141619141345.html>

- **Palestinians to 'continue knocking U.N. door'; bid set to fail but diplomacy goes on**



President Mahmoud Abbas is seeking statehood for Palestinians without waiting any longer for a breakthrough in negotiations with Israel on a peace treaty to end the 63-year-old Middle East conflict. (Reuters)

By AL ARABIYA WITH AGENCIES
DUBAI

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on Tuesday endorsed a decision by President Mahmoud Abbas to request a United Nations Security Council vote on a resolution recognizing a Palestinian state, even though it is destined to fail.

The endorsement came at a meeting in Ramallah of the PLO executive committee, the highest Palestinian authority, which set aside the alternative of asking the U.N. General Assembly to upgrade Palestine's U.N. status short of full membership.

It did not say when a Council vote would be requested.

"The Executive committee stresses the necessity to continue working with the Security Council to pursue the cause of achieving the full membership of Palestine," an official statement said, according to Reuters.

It backed Abbas's decision not to go to the General Assembly at this stage, while keeping all options open.

Abbas is seeking statehood for Palestinians without waiting any longer for a breakthrough in negotiations with Israel

on a peace treaty to end the 63-year-old Middle East conflict.

The Palestinians say they have been patient for 20 years of futile talks. But Israel and its main ally the United States have warned Abbas that only a peace treaty can establish a universally recognized Palestinian state.

The issue has split the Security Council.

Diplomats say Russia, China, Lebanon, Brazil, India, South Africa and probably Gabon and Nigeria would support the Palestinians. The United States would vote against and Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, Colombia and Bosnia would likely abstain, with Germany possibly voting against.

The makeup of the Council will be different in the New Year, when five seats change hands.

"Our strategy now is to continue knocking on the door of the Security Council and not other doors," Foreign Minister Reyad al-Malki told Voice of Palestine radio on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

The United Nations currently considers Palestine an observer “entity.” Abbas applied on Sept. 23 for full U.N. membership for a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He passed up the less ambitious but more promising option of asking the General Assembly to upgrade Palestine to an observer “non-member state” like the Vatican.

U.S. President Barack Obama warned he would veto a Security Council resolution backing Palestinian statehood. But no U.S. veto will in fact be necessary when it comes to a vote, because Abbas lacks support from at least 9 of the 15 Security Council members needed to pass a resolution and force Obama’s hand.

Peace talks vs. settlements

Middle East peace talks have been suspended for more than a year. Abbas refuses to negotiate while Israel goes on building settlements on occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem land, and Israel refuses to halt its settlement construction.

Israel’s government said Tuesday it will invite tenders for the construction of more than 800 new homes in east Jerusalem, in a move to punish the Palestinians for joining UNESCO, AFP reported.

The housing ministry said it had published formal notice of its intention to invite tenders to build 749 housing units in Har Homa and another 65 in Pisgat Zeev, both settlement neighborhoods in occupied and annexed east Jerusalem.

“Israel responded to Quartet attempts to re-launch the negotiations and meetings yesterday with a new settlement building declaration in east Jerusalem,” chief negotiator Saeb Erakat told AFP.

“Quartet attempts to create an atmosphere suitable to relaunch negotiations and convince Israel to stop building in settlements have failed,” he said.

On Nov. 1, Israel’s inner cabinet decided to speed up the construction of 2,000 homes for Jews in Arab east Jerusalem and in other nearby settlements to punish

the Palestinians for successfully joining UNESCO a day earlier.

Abbas' drive for recognition regardless of the peace process scored a victory two weeks ago, when 103 states at the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO voted to upgrade the Palestinians to full membership status.

The UNESCO success is costing the Palestinian Authority about \$100 million per month in lost revenues, following Israel's decision to freeze transfer of the tax revenues and customs duties it collects on its behalf.

Israel occupied the eastern sector of the Holy City during the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed it in a move which was never recognized by the international community.

Since then, Israel has insisted that the whole of Jerusalem is its "eternal, indivisible capital" and does not consider construction in the east to be settlement building because the land falls within the city's municipal boundaries, which were drawn up after the 1967 war.

The Palestinians want east Jerusalem as the capital of their promised state and adamantly oppose any Israeli attempt to extend its control over the sector.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/16/177429.html?PHPSESSID=s91g9p5e2e7q3m500klophcbb5>

- **Palestinian reconciliation remains uncertain as Fatah, Hamas agree on elections**

Under the agreement, a caretaker unity government will be established in the coming weeks that will exclude current Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

By Avi Issacharoff

In Palestinian politics, 10 days are an eternity. Still, barring a last-minute surprise, the weekend will see a historic agreement between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Khaled Meshal, head of Hamas' political bureau. The two are expected to set parliamentary and presidential elections for May, six years after the last parliamentary elections, and seven years since Abbas was elected. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Cairo, under the auspices of Egyptian intelligence.

The secret negotiations in the last few days were directed by Nader al-Assar, a former Egyptian consul to Israel and the man who mediated the Gilad Shalit deal. Under the agreement, a caretaker unity government will be established in the coming weeks that will exclude current Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, center, and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, second from left, in Ramallah earlier this month.

Photo by: Reuters

Since a reconciliation between the two sides was announced last May, Abbas has tried to keep Fayyad as prime minister despite Hamas' objections. The main reason Abbas wanted Fayyad to stay was to ensure that the international community, Israel and the United States would continue to transfer much-needed cash to the Palestinian Authority.

But now, seeing that Israel was in no hurry to transfer Palestinian tax money, and seeing that the U.S. Congress was in a belligerent mood following the Palestinian bid for statehood in the United Nations, Abbas understood that he didn't have much to lose by dropping Fayyad.

Everyone who has met with Abbas lately has heard about his decision not to run for president and focus on his private life. Until recently, Hamas too was wary of elections, but the Gilad Shalit deal has strengthened its standing. Further, some see the Arab Spring as transforming into an Islamic Spring after the election results in Tunisia, and the expected gains for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

The third reason for Hamas' optimism is the realization that at this point, apart from Abbas, Fatah doesn't have a popular candidate for the presidency, which means Hamas might win that race as well.

It's still unclear who will replace Fayyad as caretaker prime minister - not that it really matters. In any case, he won't serve more than a few months and isn't expected to influence Israel's policy much regarding the Palestinian tax money.

The more important question is who will be Fatah's candidate for the presidency. Some officials believe that they will succeed in convincing Abbas to run one more time, but if he refuses, Fatah will find itself in an embarrassing position: The only candidate who is assured to beat any Hamas candidate is Marwan Barghouti, in prison in Israel for life.

Even if Meshal and Abbas agree about the May elections and the caretaker prime minister, it's still too early to talk about a lasting reconciliation. If both movements manage to keep the peace until May, it's doubtful that the victory of one of them in the elections will solve the deep problems facing the warring factions.

Hamas won't lay down its weapons in Gaza if Fatah wins, just as Fatah won't hurry to give up its control of the security apparatus in the West Bank if Hamas wins. After four and a half years of enmity, it's doubtful that even peaceful elections can heal the wounds and calm the hatred between Fatah and Hamas.

[http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/palestinian-reconciliation-](http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/palestinian-reconciliation-remains-uncertain-as-fatah-hamas-agree-on-elections-1.395818)

[remains-uncertain-as-fatah-hamas-agree-on-elections-1.395818](http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/palestinian-reconciliation-remains-uncertain-as-fatah-hamas-agree-on-elections-1.395818)

4. AFRICA and EGYPT / AFRİKA ve MISIR

- **Egypt court clears way for ex-NDP candidates**

Court ruling allows former members of Mubarak's National Democratic Party to run in Egypt's parliamentary election.



Monday's ruling means former members of Egypt's ruling party will be allowed to compete in elections beginning later this month [EPA]

Former members of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party will be allowed to run in upcoming parliamentary elections, following a decision from the country's supreme administrative court.

The court's ruling is seemingly the last word on the subject, after weeks of speculation on the status of the so-called

felool (an Arabic word meaning "remnants").

The NDP, the party of former president Hosni Mubarak, was officially disbanded in April, but dozens of former high-ranking members are reportedly planning to run as independents in the election, which begins on November 28.

The exact number of ex-NDP candidates is unknown, because Egypt's High Elections Commission has yet to release a final candidate list.

In its decision, the court argued that it could not deprive ex-NDP members of "their right to participate in political life."

'Corrupting' political life

The high court's decision came in response to a ruling in Mansoura, the capital of Dakhalia governorate in the Nile Delta region. An administrative court there ruled on Thursday that former members of the NDP should be barred from running for office because of past corruption by the party.

"The individuals who corrupted the economic, social, political and cultural life of this country are ordinary people who were in charge of running the affairs of this party," the ruling said.

It was unclear, though, whether the Mansoura court's ruling was limited to Dakhalia governorate. And so the ruling sparked a flurry of similar lawsuits. In Alexandria on Sunday an administrative court rejected a similar request to block an ex-NDP official from running for office.

Monday's high court ruling, however, applies nationwide, and it cannot be appealed.

The status of these candidates has become one of the most contentious issues in the upcoming election.

Some Egyptians have urged they should be barred completely from public life. A Web site, Emsek Felool ("Catch a Remnant"), encourages people to identify the ex-NDP officials running in their districts and campaign against them. Politicians often accuse their rivals of supporting the old regime, or including felool on their candidate lists.

But former members of the NDP remain popular in parts of Egypt: Many of them leveraged their ties to Hosni Mubarak's government to build large patronage networks in their districts.

Liberal groups are still hoping that Egypt's interim government will ratify a promised anti-corruption law, which would bar anyone convicted of corruption from running for public office.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/201111156234899540.html>

- **Egypt detains two in Sinai pipeline bombing**

Police arrest two leading members of al-Qaeda-inspired group in connection with attack on gas pipeline to Israel.



Egyptian security officials have arrested two members of an al-Qaeda-inspired group thought to be behind attacks on a pipeline supplying gas to Israel and

Jordan, the official MENA news agency reported Monday.

Abdel Karim Mohammed Ahmed and Ahmed Salem Awad, of the group known as Al-Takfeer wal Hijra, were detained during a sweep in the north Sinai town of el-Arish, a day after one of the group's leading members was held, MENA said.

Another member of the group, Mohammed al-Teehi, was earlier arrested and named as the mastermind of attacks on the gas pipeline and on police stations and installations in North Sinai, a security official said on Sunday.

On Thursday, two explosions hit the pipeline that carries gas through the Sinai Peninsula and on to Jordan and Israel. It had already been attacked six times since former president Hosni Mubarak was toppled in February.

Egyptian authorities have on several occasions announced measures to step up protection of the pipeline and try to arrest those behind the attacks. Army experts have also located and defused a number of other devices targeting the pipeline.

Israel generates 40 per cent of its electricity using natural gas, and Egypt provides 43 per cent of its gas supplies.

The deliveries to Israel, agreed to under Mubarak, have come under heavy criticism in Egypt. Mubarak's government was accused of selling the gas at a low price.

Egypt's Sinai region is particularly sensitive due to tensions with the Bedouin community living there.

Many goods are smuggled to the Palestinian enclave of Gaza through Sinai, which Israel also charges is used as a rear base for militant attacks against its territory.

The military and police launched a sweeping operation in the peninsula in October to uproot militants blamed for the attacks on the pipeline and a police station in El-Arish.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/20111114134313317156.html>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON / ÜRDÜN

• **Lebanese politicians fight over Syria on live TV**

BEIRUT (AP) — Two prominent Lebanese politicians debating the unrest in neighboring Syria have exchanged blows on live television, in an indication of the deep divide between Lebanese factions over their relationship with Damascus.

Pro and anti-Syrian regime demonstrations are common in Lebanon, whose politics have long been heavily influenced by Damascus, now facing increasing isolation over its bloody crackdown on protestors.

The fight late Monday night broke out in a debate between anti-Syrian former legislator Mustafa Alloush and the head of the Lebanese branch of Syria's ruling Baath party Fayeze Shukur.

Alloush called Syrian President Bashar Assad a liar, at which point the two politicians traded insults and hurled glasses of water at each other. The pro-Syrian Shukur then picked up a chair and tried to hit Alloush with it.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27320>

6. SYRIA / SURİYE

Dünyaya meydan okudu, Türkiye'den özür diledi

Türkiye ile ilgili Suriye'den yapılan açıklamada "bundan sonraki tavrımızı Türkiye'nin tavrına göre belirleyeceğiz" denildi... Türk elçiliğine saldırılardan dolayı özür dileyen Suriye tampon bölge iddiası ile ilgili olarak da 'Türk dostlarımızın bunu yapacağına ihtimal vermiyoruz' açıklamasında bulundu...

Suriye Dışişleri Bakanı Velid Muallim, rejim yanlısı grupların önceki gece Türkiye'ye ve diğer ülkelere ait diplomatik misyonlarına yapılan saldırıdan dolayı özür diledi, bunun bir daha tekrarlanmayacağı sözünü verdi. Başkent Şam'da düzenlediği basın toplantısında soruları cevaplandıran Velid Muallim; Şam, Halep ve Lazkiye'deki olaylardan ötürü özür diledi. Muallim, "Bir dışişleri bakanı olarak bu saldırılardan dolayı özür diliyorum. Bu, bir daha tekrarlanmayacak büyük bir suçtur." dedi. Velid Muallim, Viyana Sözleşmesi'ne taraf bir ülke olarak diplomatik misyonların güvenliğinden sorumlu olduklarını vurguladı. Velid Muallim, Türkiye ile ilişkilerin geleceğinin ise Ankara'nın tutumuna bağlı olduğunu söyledi. Muallim, "Türkiye ile 10 senedir yapılan

anlaşma ve yakınlaşmaların devamını istiyorlarsa buna hazırız. Bu süreci durdurmak istiyorlarsa buna da hazırız. Bize komplo kurmak istiyorlarsa, buna da hazırız." dedi.

SURİYE MEYDAN OKUDU: LIBYA DEĞİLİZ!

Suriye Dışişleri Bakanı Velid El Muallim, Arap Birliği'nin Suriye'nin üyeliğini askıya almasının "son derece tehlikeli bir adım" olduğunu söyledi.

El Muallim, Şam'da düzenlediği basın toplantısında, şiddetin sona ermesi için Arap Birliği ile yapılan anlaşmanın uygulanmaya ve muhalefetle diyaloga başladığı bir dönemde alınan kararın son derece tehlikeli olduğunu ve meşru olmadığını ifade etti.

ABD'yi Birliğin "gayri resmi üyesi" olarak nitelendiren El Muallim, ABD'nin Arap Birliği'nin kararından memnuniyet duymasının "fitnecilikle aynı anlama geldiği" görüşünü de savundu.

El Muallim, Arap Birliği'nin kararına rağmen "Libya'daki senaryonun Suriye'de tekrar etmeyeceğini" belirtti.

Suriye'ye yönelik komploların başarısızlığa uğrayacağını söyleyen El Muallim, Suriye'nin boyun eğmeyeceğini bildirdi.

El Muallim Suriyelilere seslenerek, "Gelecekle ilgili endişeniz olmasın. (Suriye) Halkın iradesi ve ulusal birlik sayesinde daha da güçlü çıkacak" dedi.

Suriye Dışişleri Bakanı El Muallim, Rusya ve Çin'in BM Güvenlik Konseyi'nde Suriye'yle ilgili tutumunu değiştirmeyeceğinden emin olduğunu da belirterek, ülkeye yabancı müdahale olacağını sanmadığını kaydetti.

<http://www.stargazete.com/dunya/son-dakika-haber-397119.htm>

- **AB yaptırım getirdi Ürdün istifa istedi**

AB Dışişleri Yüksek Temsilcisi Catherine Ashton, 'üyeliği askıya alma' kararına tam destek verdikleri Arap Birliği'nin güçlü pozisyon aldığını ve Suriye'de ne yapılması gerektiğini açıklığa kavuşturduğunu açıkladı.

Ashton, Şam'a halkın sesine kulak verme çağrısı yaparken, AB Dışişleri bakanlarının dünkü toplantısında da ek yaptırımda uzlaşıldı. Şam'ın şiddet politikasında

sorumluluğu olan 18 kişinin daha malvarlığı dondurulup seyahat yasağı getirilirken, Avrupa Yatırım Bankası da Suriye'ye kredileri donduracak. Fransa Dışişleri Bakanı Alain Juppe ise 'artık daha fazla sivilin nasıl korunabileceğini görme zamanı' geldiğini söyleyip BM Güvenlik Konseyi'nin bir tavır sergilemesi gerektiğini belirtti. Ürdün Kralı Abdullah ise Esad'a istifa çağrısı yapıp "Yerinde olsam bırakırdım. Yerime gelecek kişinin mevcut durumu değiştirebileceğinden emin olurdum" dedi.

Şam'a destek ise Rusya ve Irak'tan geldi. Rusya Dışişleri Bakanı Sergey Lavrov, Arap Birliği'nin kararının doğru olmadığını belirtip Batı'nın Esad'ı devirmek için muhalefeti kışkırttığını savundu. Ayrıca ABD'nin silah ihracatını durdurulması talebine karşın Rus silah şirketi Rosoboroneksport "Silah ihracı sürece" açıklaması yaptı. Irak ise Birliğin kararını 'kabul edilemez ve çok tehlikeli' diye niteledi. Devlet Bakanı Ali Debbağ, Suriye'den daha büyük krizlere sahip başka ülkeler için bu tip karar alınmadığına dikkat çekip "Muhafiflerle diyalog ve halkın özgürlüğünden yanayız. Ama bu, sorunun kısa yoldan uluslararası görüşmelere taşınmasıyla olmamalı" dedi.

<http://www.stargazete.com/dunya/ab-yaptirim-getirdi-urdun-istifa-istedi-haber-397234.htm>

- **Rusya'dan Suriyeli muhaliflere ret**

Suriye Ulusal Meclisi, Moskova'da Rus yetkililerle biraraya geldi. Ancak taraflar arasında bir uzlaşma sağlanamadığı için görüşmeden bir sonuç çıkmadı.

ntvmsnbc

Suriye Ulusal Meclisi Başkanı Burhan Galyun, muhalifler olarak Moskova'ya bakış açılarını anlatmak ve Rusya'nın desteğini almayı amaçladıklarını söyledi. Suriyeli muhalif, böylece Şam rejimi üzerinde bir baskı oluşturmasını sağlamayı umduklarını ifade etti.

Ancak Galyun Esad yönetimine destek veren Rusları ikna etmeyi başaramadıklarını belirtti. Burhan Galyun, buna karşın, Rusya'nın Suriye sorununa siyasi bir çözümden yana olduğunu da kaydetti.

Suriyeli muhalif, Arap Birliği girişimi uygulanmadan soruna çözüm bulunamayacağını vurguladı. Söz konusu girişim şiddet olaylarının sona ermesini,

güvenlik güçlerinin kentlerden çekilmesini ve tutukluların serbest bırakılmasını öngörüyor.

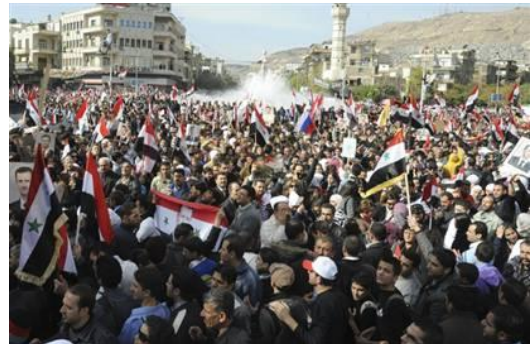
TÜRKİYE'DE TEMSİLCİLİK AÇMAK İSTEDİLER

Suriye Ulusal Konseyi üyeleri geçtiğimiz günlerde Dışişleri Bakanı Ahmet Davutoğlu ile yaptıkları görüşmede, Türkiye'de temsilcilik açma yönündeki isteklerini dile getirmişlerdi. Dışişleri Bakanlığı'ndan yapılan açıklamada, Suriyeli muhaliflerin Türkiye'de temsilcilik açması konusundaki çalışmaların süreceği ancak temsilcilik için yer ve zamanın henüz belli olmadığı belirtildi.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297507/>

- **Suriye'de isyancı askerlerle çatışma**

Arap Birliği'nin üyeliğini askıya aldığı Suriye'de ordu ile isyancılara katılan askerler arasında çatışma yaşandı. Suriyeli muhalifler çatışmalarda 40'dan fazla kişinin öldüğünü açıkladı.



Suriye'de geçtiğimiz mart ayında şiddet olaylarının ilk başladığı kent olan Dera'da dün Suriye ordusu ile muhaliflere katılan askerler arasında şiddetli çatışmalar yaşandı. İngiltere'nin başkenti Londra kaynaklı Suriye İnsan Hakları Gözlemevi'nden yapılan açıklamada, Dera kentinde İsrail ordusunun 16 sivil öldürdüğü iddia edildi.

Uluslararası haber ajansı Reuters ise, Ürdün sınırına yakın bir kasabada İsrail ordusunun, 20'den fazla isyancı askeri öldürdüğünü belirtti. Çatışmalarda 20 Suriye ordusuna mensup 20 askerin de öldüğü iddia edildi.

Görgü tanıkları, isyancı askerlerin Şam-Amman karayolu üzerinde bir polis otobüsüne saldırı düzenlediğini de belirtti.

Suriye'deki muhaliflerin kurduğu Yerel Kordinasyon Komitesi ise, dün Suriye genelinde meydana gelen çatışmalarda 50'den fazla kişinin hayatını kaybettiğini açıkladı.

ABD: ESAD İZOLE EDİLECEK

Arap Birliği'nin Suriye'nin üyeliğini askıya alması sonrasında bu ülke üzerindeki siyasi baskı artarak devam ediyor. ABD, Suriye

Devlet Başkanı Beşşar Esad'ın daha fazla izole edilmesi gerektiğini belirtti.

Beyaz Saray'dan yapılan açıklamada, Suriye yönetimi üzerinde siyasi baskının artırılması için Esad'ın daha fazla izole edilmesi gerektiğini belirtti.

BM SURİYE'DE ELÇİLİKLERE SALDIRIYI KINADI

BM Güvenlik Konseyi, Suriye'de Devlet Başkanı Beşşar Esad yanlılarının hafta sonunda bazı diplomatik misyonlara saldırılarını kınadı.

Konsey, saldırıların konuk ülkelerin diplomatik misyonlarının ve çalışanlarının korunmasını öngören 1961 Diplomatik İlişkilerle ilgili Viyana Sözleşmesi'nin ihlali olduğunu belirtti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25297275/>

• **Activists: Syrian intelligence base attacked**

Army defectors reported to have fired rockets at air force intelligence complex in Damascus suburb of Harasta.



Syria has decided to boycott Wednesday's Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in the Moroccan capital [Reuters]

Syrian activists say that army defectors have attacked an intelligence complex in the Damascus suburbs in what appears to be one of their boldest assaults so far against government security forces.

Members of the Free Syrian Army fired rockets and machine guns at a large air force intelligence complex situated in Harasta on the northern edge of the capital along the Damascus-Aleppo highway on Wednesday at about 2:30 am (0030 GMT), sources told Reuters.

A gunfight ensued and helicopters circled the area, sources said.

"I heard several explosions, the sound of machine-gun fire being exchanged," said a resident of the suburb of Harasta, who declined to be named.

There was no immediate report of casualties and the area where the fighting occurred remained inaccessible, the sources said.

Syria's ban on most foreign media makes it hard to verify events on the ground.

Al Jazeera's Rula Amin, reporting from neighbouring Lebanon, said: "This is probably not the first attack on security headquarters. But what is significant about this attack is that it is in Damascus, the capital. This shows how much trouble there is for the regime."

Together with military intelligence, air force intelligence is in charge of preventing dissent within the army. The two divisions have been instrumental in a crackdown on the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad, which the United Nations says has killed at least 3,500 people since March.

Syria's military is controlled by Assad's brother, Maher, and members of their minority Alawite sect. But the army is comprised mostly of Sunni Muslims, who also form the majority of Syria's

population and have been defecting from the army in growing numbers.

The latest attack came amid increasing reports of defections among Syrian soldiers deployed by the government to quell the uprising.

Syrian authorities have blamed "armed terrorist groups" for the unrest, which they said killed 1,100 army and police personnel.

Arab meeting boycott

In another development, the Syrian government has decided to boycott Wednesday's Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in the Moroccan capital Rabat, which was called to follow up on its decision to suspend Damascus from the bloc.

"Where basic human rights are trampled and peaceful demands for change met by brutal violence, people are eventually compelled to have recourse to rebellion against tyranny and oppression."

- Navi Pillay, UN human rights chief

Syrian state news agency quoted an official in the ministry of foreign affairs as saying: "In light of statements by officials in Morocco, Syria has decided not to participate in the Arab meeting in Rabat." The agency did not give details.

The Moroccan Foreign Minister Taieb Fassi said earlier that Syria would be welcome to attend the meeting.

In a rare move among Arab leaders, Jordan's King Abdullah said earlier this week that Assad should step down in the best interests of the country.

Meanwhile, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's prime minister, warned Assad on Tuesday that Syria is on a "knife edge", adding that he no longer had confidence in the Syrian government and that the Syrian president's actions threatened to place him on a list of leaders who "feed on blood".

'Bloodiest day'

On Tuesday, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that at least 70 people had been killed in violence across the country in just 24

hours, making it one of the bloodiest days since the uprising began in March.

The rights group said that 27 civilians were shot dead by security forces, and that 34 soldiers and 12 suspected army deserters were killed in clashes.

Most of the victims were killed in the southern flashpoint province of Deraa, the observatory said.

Last week, the UN warned of an increasing risk of a Libyan-style civil war in Syria as defections among the army increased.

Navi Pillay, the UN human rights chief, said last Wednesday: "Where basic human rights are trampled and peaceful demands for change met by brutal violence, people are eventually compelled to have recourse to rebellion against tyranny and oppression."

"It happened in Libya, it may happen in Syria," she told the UN Security Council during a debate on protecting civilians in armed conflict.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/201111163538991291.html>

- **Assad loyalists tear down Jordan embassy flag**

AMMAN, (AFP) — More than 100 demonstrators stormed the Jordanian embassy in Damascus and tore down the flag in protest at King Abdullah II's call for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to go, Jordanian newspapers said on Tuesday.

It was the fourth such protest against embassies of regional powers by angry Assad loyalists since the Arab League voted on Saturday to suspend Syria and impose sanctions against the regime over its bloody eight-month crackdown on peaceful protesters.

"Nearly 120 people protested in front of the Jordanian embassy in Damascus on Monday evening and two of them managed to break into the outside courtyard of the embassy and tear down the Jordanian flag," ambassador Omar al-Amad told the Al-Dustur and Al-Ghad newspapers.

"Syrian security forces did not intervene to prevent the incursion into the embassy compound by these two individuals," the ambassador added.

"By international agreement, the responsibility to protect embassies and

other diplomatic missions falls on the host country," Amad said, underlining the protection afforded to the Syrian embassy in Amman despite widespread anger in Jordan over the bloodshed in the Arab neighbouring country.

Jordan's King Abdullah II on Monday became the first Arab leader to openly call for Assad to step down, two days after the Arab League took the rare move of suspending Syrian membership of the 22-nation bloc.

"I believe, if I were in his shoes, I would step down," the king said in a BBC interview. "I would step down and make sure whoever comes behind me has the ability to change the status quo that we're seeing."

King Abdullah said Assad should usher in a new era of political dialogue before stepping down.

"Again I don't think the system allows for that, so if Bashar has the interest of his country, he would step down, but he would also create an ability to reach out and start a new phase of Syrian political life," he told the BBC.

Syria has reacted angrily to the decision at the weekend by the Arab League to suspend the country from the pan-Arab bloc.

The main Jordanian opposition parties, including the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, called on the government on Sunday to withdraw its ambassador from Damascus in accordance with an appeal from the Arab League made as part of Saturday's package of sanctions.

The bloc's foreign ministers decided to leave the final decision to member states but there has been growing pressure from human rights groups and Arab public opinion angry over a crackdown that has cost more than 3,500 lives, according to the United Nations.

The embassies of Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, seen as prime movers in the groundswell of regional opinion against the Assad regime, had already come under attack.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem on Monday apologized for the attacks on those embassies.

"It is important... that this does not repeat itself. The protection of the embassies is part of our responsibilities," Muallem told a news conference in Damascus.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27319>

- **Turkey halting joint oil exploration with Syria, threatens to cut energy supplies**

By AL ARABIYA AND AGENCIES

Turkey said on Tuesday it was halting joint oil exploration with Syria and would consider cutting energy supplies to its one-time ally following attacks on Turkish diplomatic missions in three Syrian cities.

"Right now we are supplying electricity there (Syria). If this course continues, we may have to review all of these decisions," Energy Minister Taner Yildiz told reporters.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Syria's leadership was offered a last chance to stop its violent repression of anti-government protests but rejected it.

"We have given a last opportunity to the Syrian regime but they didn't want to seize it," Davutoglu said in the Moroccan capital. Turkey wants "sanctions with an impact that spares harm to the Syrian people," he said through an interpreter.

The White House, meanwhile, said that Turkish criticism of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had deepened the isolation of his regime.

"We very much welcome the strong stance Turkey has taken," White House deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters traveling with President Barack Obama to Asia. "Turkey's comments today further point to the fact that President Assad is isolated," he said.

Turkey, once a close ally of Damascus, has been exporting electricity to Syria since 2006.

Yildiz also said that Turkey's Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) has stopped exploration with the Syrian national oil company in six wells, according to the Anatolia news agency.

The minister's remarks come in the wake of weekend attacks on Turkish diplomatic missions in three Syrian cities.

Thousands of pro-regime protestors armed with knives and batons attacked the missions in Damascus as well as the cities of Aleppo and Latakia on Saturday over Turkey's support for an Arab League decision to suspend Syria.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said earlier Tuesday that Ankara had abandoned hope that Syria would respond to international demands to halt violence and initiate democratic reforms.

Erdogan, once a close political ally and a personal friend of Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad, has for months expressed frustration at Assad's failure to listen to his people as the death toll in Syrian mounts.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/15/177348.html?PHPSESSID=s91g9p5e2e7q3m500klophcbb5>

7. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA / ARAP YARIMADASI VE BASRA KÖRFEZİ

• French hostages freed in Yemen flown home

Aid workers taken by suspected al-Qaeda members more than five months ago are released with Omani mediation.



Al-Masdar Online, an independent website, posted a video showing the aid workers who were taken hostage in May. Three French hostages kidnapped by suspected al-Qaeda fighters in Yemen more than five months have been freed and are on their way to Paris.

Released with the mediation of Oman, the three made a stop in Muscat, the Omani capital, on Monday and they appeared in good health, according to media reports.

Tribal sources said in July that the aid workers, two men and a woman from French non-governmental group Triangle Generation Humanitaire, were seized by

al-Qaeda fighters in the Hadramawt town of Seyun, 600km east of Sanaa, the capital.

For more on Yemen, visit our Spotlight page

A Yemeni businessman, Ahmed al-Souraimh Ferid Ben, who was exiled to Oman in the 1990s and who worked for the hostages' release, accompanied the French citizens on the plane.

At the military base, the freed hostages were greeted by France's ambassador to Oman, Malika Berak.

The hostages disappeared on May 28. News of their release broke early on Monday with a statement from the French presidential palace.

At the time of their abduction, the former hostages' car was found on the road some 20km from Shibam, a city known as the "Manhattan of the Desert" because of its spectacular high-rise mud-brick buildings, a Yemeni security official said at the time.

On July 27, tribal sources said the kidnappers were from al-Qaeda and were demanding a ransom of \$12m.

A Yemeni mediator told The Associated Press that the Omani government and a Yemeni businessman paid a ransom, though he gave no figure and the ransom couldn't immediately be confirmed.

The three appeared in an online video in September, saying their abductors' demands had not been met.

Local sources on Monday said that leaders of the Al-Awalaq tribe led negotiations with Fahd al-Qussa, a tribe member and a leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which kidnapped the three.

Foreigners have frequently been kidnapped in Yemen by tribes who use the tactic to pressure the authorities into making concessions.

More than 200 foreigners have been kidnapped in Yemen over the past 15 years, with almost all of them later freed unharmed.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011111494937353338.html>

- **Yemen's Saleh says ready to step down in 90 days**

SANAA (Reuters) - Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said on Monday he was ready to step down within 90 days of reaching a deal on a formal process for implementing a Gulf initiative aimed at ending the nine-month-old crisis in his country.

Saleh, who has so far refused to sign the accord proposed by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council in April, told France's Channel 24 television in an interview that he had given his deputy, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, authority to negotiate a deal with the opposition.

Asked when he would leave office, Saleh said: "When an agreement on the Gulf initiative is reached, and when it is signed, and (it is agreed) on the operational mechanism and when elections are held, the president will leave."

Asked if there was a time frame for his departure, he said: "It is defined. It is within 90 days (of an agreement)."

"I have 33 years of experience in power and I know the difficulties, I know the negatives and positives. The one who clings to power is mad," he said.

An opposition official said on Sunday that Saleh was trying to thwart a mission by U.N. envoy Jamal Benomar to implement the U.N.-backed Gulf initiative, by insisting on staying in office until new elections are held.

"Saleh wants to preserve all his powers until the election of a new president and that is rejected by the opposition and because of this the U.N. envoy's mission is going to fail," said the official, who declined to be identified.

Benomar urged all Yemeni factions on Monday to reach an agreement "to save the Yemeni people from the sufferings of the current crisis," the Yemeni Defense Ministry's website said.

"I am in nearly daily contact with all political sides in Yemen and efforts are continuing to reach a peaceful end to the crisis," he added.

Under an "operational mechanism" proposed by Benomar, Saleh would step down immediately, triggering the formation of a national unity government ahead of early presidential elections. A body would be set up to restructure the armed forces.

Saleh said he had no objection to restructuring the armed forces, which split after the protests against his rule began in February. "Restructuring the army, I have no problem with that. The army belongs to the homeland and is not a personal property," he said.

Saleh also slammed the Arab Spring protests, calling the demonstrations "Arab anarchy."

He said support for these protests had come from a "small and weightless state" - an apparent reference to Qatar, a wealthy Gulf Arab state and home to the Al Jazeera satellite TV channel, which gave sympathetic coverage to the Arab Spring uprisings, particularly those in Libya and Syria.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27322>

Gulf nations reject Syrian request for Arab summit

15/11/2011

CAIRO (AP) — A bloc of Gulf nations has rejected Syria's request for an emergency Arab League summit to discuss the country's spiraling political unrest. That significantly dims chances such a meeting will have enough support to take place.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council announced its position Tuesday in a statement. It said Arab foreign ministers are already holding talks to prepare for a Wednesday meeting in Morocco in which Syria is to be officially suspended from the Arab League.

Syria requested the summit after the Arab League voted to give Damascus until Wednesday to implement a plan for ending the violence or face suspension. The call for a summit needs backing from 15 of the League's 22 members.

The Gulf countries led the drive to punish Syria over its crackdown on protesters.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27330>

- **Saudi Arabia seeks U.N. condemnation of plot to kill its Washington envoy**

By AL ARABIYA WITH AGENCIES
DUBAI/UNITED NATIONS

Saudi Arabia's U.N. delegation said on Tuesday it will submit a draft resolution to the General Assembly soon that condemns an alleged plot to assassinate its U.S. envoy and urges Iran to follow the law.

According to an Al Arabiya correspondent, the draft is expected to be adopted by the United States, the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The draft resolution would have the 193-nation assembly say it "deplores the plot to assassinate the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States of America," according to Reuters.

It also condemns "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations" and "strongly condemns acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives."

Abdul Mohsen Alyas, the Saudi U.N. mission's spokesman, said his delegation

would circulate the draft resolution to the assembly on Wednesday and was aiming to put it to a vote on Friday.

U.S. authorities said last month they had uncovered a plot by two Iranian men linked to Tehran's security agencies to hire a hit man to kill ambassador Adel al-Jubeir. One man, Manssor Arbabsiar, was arrested in September while the other is believed to be in Iran.

Iran has denied the charges and expressed outrage, saying the allegations threaten stability in the Gulf, where Saudi Arabia and Iran, the biggest regional powers, are fierce rivals and Washington has a huge military presence.

The draft resolution does not directly accuse Iran of being responsible for the plot or call for a condemnation of Tehran.

It does, however, urge Iran "to comply with all of its obligations under international law ... and to cooperate with states to bring to justice all those who participated in the planning, sponsoring, organization and attempted execution of the plot to assassinate the (Saudi) ambassador."

The Saudi delegation expects that many U.N. member states will ask to jointly sponsor the non-binding General Assembly resolution, Alyas said.

“It’s a clear signal that terrorist acts and acts of violence against any country, its citizens and its representatives should not pass without a proper response,” he said.

Failure to condemn such acts would be tantamount to condoning them, he added.

Several diplomats told Reuters that Washington would probably be among the resolution's co-sponsors.

Prince Turki al-Faisal refers to ‘ample’ evidence

Prince Turki al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia, former director general of the Saudi

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia’s former ambassador to the U.S. said Tuesday there was “ample and heinous” evidence that Iran was behind the alleged plot to kill the current Saudi envoy to Washington, The Associated Press reported.

Prince Turki al-Faisal, who also once served as Saudi Arabia’s intelligence chief, told reporters that if Tehran failed to prosecute Iranians linked to the plot, Riyadh may take the case to the United Nations.

“We have seen ample and heinous evidence in the uncovering of an assassination plot against the Saudi ambassador to the United States,” he said, adding the evidence “indicates the depths of depravity and unreason to which the Ahmadinejad regime has sunk. Fortunately, this plot was foiled.”

The Saudi prince is no longer a government official and said he was speaking as a private citizen. But he is an influential member of the royal family and serves as chairman of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies.

Turki called the plot “the tip of the iceberg,” saying Iran was “meddling” in the affairs of many other countries, including Lebanon, Turkey, Pakistan and especially Iraq, according to AP. The Saudi government has also accused a terror cell linked to Iran of plotting to blow up its embassy in Bahrain, as well as the

causeway linking the island kingdom to Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. and other nations suspect that Iran is using its civilian nuclear work as a cover for a weapons program, but Iran insists that its nuclear ambitions are strictly peaceful. The U.S. has used sanctions and diplomacy to pressure Iran on the issue but has long refused to rule out military action saying that all options are on the table.

Tehran has already complained to the United Nations about the U.S. allegations, saying one of the alleged plotters the United States calls an Iranian military official is really a member of the exiled Iranian rebel group Mujahideen Khalq Organization, which Washington has branded a terrorist group.

The MKO's umbrella group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, said the Iranian accusation was "preposterous."

The General Assembly's human rights committee is also expected to adopt a separate resolution condemning the human rights situation in Iran later this week. The full assembly is expected

approve the human rights resolution next month.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/16/177422.html?PHPSESSID=s91g9p5e2e7q3m500klophcbb5>

8. AFGHANISTAN - PAKİSTAN / AFGANİSTAN - PAKİSTAN

• Afghan tribal leaders gather in Kabul

Hundreds of community elders attend loya jirga in capital with Afghan security forces on high alert to prevent attacks.



Dozens of extra Afghan security guards are patrolling the streets ahead of Wednesday's loya jirga in Kabul [EPA]

Afghan President Hamid Karzai called on elders assembled for a national conference to help create a fair framework

for relations with the US and find a path to peace for the turbulent country.

Karzai spoke at the opening of a "loya jirga," or grand council, which will discuss a proposed strategic partnership with the United States that would oversee the American military presence here as troops draw down, as well as possible peace talks with the Taliban.

Karzai urged the roughly 2,000 delegates to consider both the need for international help and the need to make sure Afghans are setting the rules in their own country.

"We want to have a strong partnership with the US and NATO, but with conditions," Karzai said. "We want our national sovereignty, and an end to night raids and to the detention of our countrymen. We don't want parallel structures alongside our government."

Afghan security forces are on high alert as tribal and political leaders convene in Kabul for four days of talks.

President Hamid Karzai is hosting the loya jirga despite threats by the Taliban to target anyone who attends.

"The loya jirga will discuss mainly two agendas: one will be regarding the strategic partnership deal with US and another [will be] about the peace process," said Rangeen Dadfar Spanta, Karzai's national security adviser.

The jirga cannot make laws, and whatever it decides has to be approved by parliament.

But diplomats in Kabul say Karzai will use the meeting to secure a strong mandate from the gathering as he pursues a controversial agreement with the US on a strategic partnership to determine Afghan-US relationship after 2014.

The Taliban, who are opposed to the presence of foreign forces, have dismissed the jirga as a ruse to cement what they see as foreign interference and have already tried to disrupt it.

The group on Monday said they had obtained a confidential government security plan for the Jirga.

Enhanced security

Roads leading to the hall in which the jirga will be held, near Polytechnic University, about 10km from central Kabul, have been closed to normal traffic.

Dozens of extra Afghan security guards have been patrolling the streets, performing body searches and, in some cases, removing turbans to check for explosives.

Al Jazeera's Bernard Smith, reporting from Kabul, said: "Afghan security have gone to extra lengths to ensure the jirga will go ahead, as a lot of effort has taken place to ensure there are no attacks."

The jirga is the latest meeting to discuss the future of Afghanistan, after a regional gathering in Istanbul earlier this month and ahead of an international conference in Germany in December.

Loya jirgas, have been called throughout Afghan history to discuss weighty affairs that affect the country's various ethnic groups and tribes.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2011/11/2011111654314377391.html>

- **Drone strike 'kills fighters' in Pakistan**

Officials say at least six dead in apparent US attack on compound used by armed groups near border with Afghanistan.



More than 60 US drone attacks have been reported in the Pakistan this year [Getty Images]

A suspected US drone strike targeting a compound used by armed groups has killed at least six fighters in Pakistan's tribal region near the Afghan border, security officials said.

The strike took place on Tuesday in Miranshah Bazaar, an area in the town of Miranshah in North Waziristan which is known as a strong bastion of Taliban and Al-Qaeda linked armed groups.

"At least six militants were killed when a US drone fired two missiles on a rebel compound in the bazaar," a security official told AFP news agency on condition of anonymity.

Other security officials told The Associated Press that the death toll was seven.

He said thick smoke could be seen coming out of the compound after the strike, adding the identities of those killed could not be immediately verified.

The US has not publicly acknowledged its use of drones against purported al-Qaeda and Taliban targets on the Pakistani side of the border, although use of the weapons has increased markedly under US President Barack Obama with more than 60 attacks reported in the country so far this year, according to AFP.

Drone attacks are deeply unpopular among many Pakistanis and have strained relations between the US and Pakistan, with relations at their worst since US special forces killed Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader, in a secret raid in a Pakistani garrison town in May.

Visiting Islamabad last month, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on Pakistan to take action within "days and weeks" on dismantling Afghan armed groups' havens and encouraging the Taliban into peace talks.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2011/11/201111155354189611.html>

9. TERÖRİZM / TERRORISM

- **Al Qaeda leader praises 'kind' bin Laden**

Ayman al-Zawahiri, the network's new leader, describes former head as noble, generous and good.



Osama bin Laden, left, sits with Ayman al-Zawahiri, the network's new head [Getty]

Al-Qaeda has released a video message in which Ayman al-Zawahiri, the group's leader, heaps praise on his predecessor Osama bin Laden for his "superior morals" and loyalty to his comrades.

"Days with the imam, Part One", the half-hour tape released on Wednesday, described the network's founder as noble, generous and good.

"I had the honour of the companionship of that man for long periods in travel and in different circumstances," said Zawahiri, an Egyptian who met bin Laden in Pakistan in the mid-1980s when both were supporting guerrillas fighting Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

"People don't know that this man was tender, gentle, kind, with refined feelings, even when life was hard."

Zawahiri became the leader of al-Qaeda in June after bin Laden was killed in a US raid on his secret compound in Pakistan.

"Sheikh Osama would feel great sadness if he felt that his brothers in the path of jihad had been oppressed or had not reached their rightful goal," said Zawahiri.

"That man was very loyal to his brothers and he was intent on remembering them in virtue and praising their way."

Zawahiri was bin Laden's lieutenant and the alleged brains behind much of al-Qaeda's strategy for many years.

"He used to remember the 19 [people] who attacked the idiot of the age,

America, in the Pentagon, the seat of its military leadership, and in New York, the symbol of its economic power," said Zawahiri, referring to al-Qaeda's September 2001 hijacked aircraft attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Zawahiri ended by saying that the video would be followed by others about bin Laden. It was not clear when the video was recorded.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011111633018404662.html>

- **Norway opens bomb trial linked to cartoons, al Qaeda**

OSLO, (Reuters) - Three Norwegians accused of plotting, with al Qaeda's help, to bomb a Danish newspaper for printing cartoons of Islam's Prophet Mohammad, pleaded not guilty to the charges in court on Tuesday.

The alleged ringleader, Mikael Davud, learned how to use explosives at an al Qaeda camp in Pakistan and made "an agreement" with the terror organisation to blow up Denmark's daily Jyllands-Posten, prosecutor Geir Evanger said on the first day of the trial.

The three acquired bomb ingredients like hydrogen peroxide and acetone while two of them may also have planned to kill a Danish cartoonist who had drawn the Prophet with a bomb in his turban, Evanger said in his opening statement.

"This is a ground-breaking case in Norway," Davud's attorney, Arild Karl Humlen, told Reuters.

"It is the first full-scale test of new (Norwegian) terror laws and the first time they (the prosecutors) are linking a terror conspiracy to an international organisation."

Jyllands-Posten was the first of several European publications to print cartoons lampooning the Prophet in late 2005 and early 2006, sparking violent protests in the Middle East and Africa and a widespread debate about press freedom.

As recently as Nov. 2, a firebomb attack gutted the headquarters of French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo after it put an image of the Prophet on its cover.

Davud, a Norwegian citizen of Chinese Uigur origin, trained with al Qaeda in Pakistan from 2008 to 2009 and remained in contact with the group until the trio's arrest in July 2010, the prosecutor said.

"Davud has used e-mail to correspond with them (al Qaeda) and he has talked to them, cooperating about the target," Evanger told Reuters.

Weapons manuals, bomb-making instructions and pro-al Qaeda propaganda were found on his computer in Norway, Evanger said.

Davud's attorney told Reuters his client insists the training he received was in Iran and had nothing to do with al Qaeda.

"He says he went to Iran to learn to make a bomb that he would use at some point in his life to attract interest to what the Chinese are doing to the Uigur population," Humlen said.

Some Uigurs in China's easternmost province, most of them Muslim, have agitated for a separate state or more autonomy.

After his arrest, Davud, 40, admitted he intended to attack Chinese interests like the Chinese embassy in Oslo, police said last year, but he is charged only with plotting to bomb the Danish newspaper.

Shawan Sadek Saeed Bujak, a 38-year-old Iraqi Kurd with Norwegian residency, joined the newspaper plot in 2009 and stored explosive chemicals at his home, the prosecutor said.

He and Davud have been in custody since the arrests.

The third defendant, a 33-year-old native Uzbek national named David Jakobsen, was released last year proclaiming his innocence but remained under investigation.

According to Evanger, Jakobsen delivered hydrogen peroxide to Davud several times. Evanger said Jakobsen's participation "lasted until he contacted police" in November 2009, after which he assisted the investigation.

Evanger said the trial, expected to last six weeks, would include surveillance tapes and testimony from a U.S. investigator

with knowledge of the al Qaeda contacts Davud allegedly maintained.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27321>

**This media summary is prepared by ORSAM Middle East Research Assistants Nebahat Tanrıverdi O and Sercan Doğan. 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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