



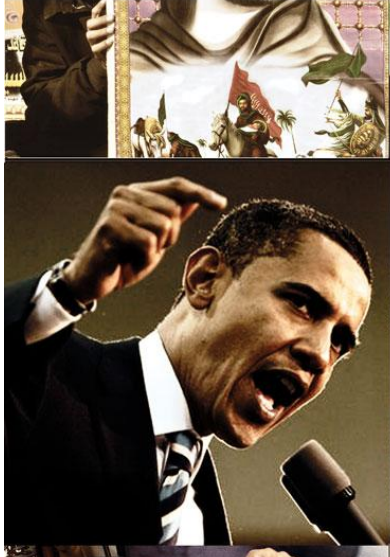
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CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

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MIDDLE EAST BULLETIN
GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ
25 NOVEMBER / KASIM 2011
NO: 1275

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1. IRAQ / IRAK

• Irak'ta 12 militan idam edildi

Irak'ta 2006 yılında bir düğünde yapılan katliamda rolleri bulunan 12 militan idam edildi.

BAĞDAT - Irak Adalet Bakanı Yardımcısı Buşo İbrahim, 2006 yılında ülkenin orta kesimindeki Duceyl kentinde bir düğünde 70 kişinin öldürülmesine neden olan El Kaide üyesi 12 militanın cezalarının, bugün infaz edildiğini açıkladı.

Olayla ilgili olarak geçen Haziran ayında 15 kişi idama mahkum edilmişti. Buşo İbrahim, diğer üç mahkumun hala başka suçlardan yargıldığını kaydetti.

Nüfusunun büyük bölümünü Şiilerin oluşturduğu Duceyl kenti, başkent Bağdat'ın 80 kilometre kuzeyinde bulunuyor.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25300010/>

• HAVİCE PATLAMASI BİLANÇO

Kerkük'e bağlı Havice ilçesinde dün meydana gelen patlamalarda yaralananların sayısının 5 olduğu açıklandı.ilçede dün bombalı iki araçla

saldırı düzenlenmişti.Bu arada Irak Türkmen Cephesi yayınladığı bildiririyle meydana gelen saldırıları kınadı.



Dün Kerkük'e bağlı Havice ilçesinde meydana gelen patlamalarda yaralı olanların sayısının 5 olduğu açıklandı.ilçede dün bombalı iki araçla saldırı düzenlenmişti.Kerkük'ün güneybatısındaki Havice ilçesinde önce bomba yüklü araçla intihar saldırısı düzenlendi.bu intihar saldırısından sonra Havice mahkeme binası yakınında park edilmiş bomba yüklü bir araç infilak etti.meydana gelen bu patlamalardan sonra Havice polis merkezine 4 adet füze fırlatıldı.

Bomba yüklü iki araç ve füzelerle düzenlenen saldırılarda yaralı sayısının 5 olduğu açıklandı.yaralılar arsında sivillerin de bulunduğu açıklandı.

Patlamalardan sonra yaralılar acil bir şekilde hastaneye kaldırılarak tedavi altına alındı.

İlçede mayana gelen bu patlamalar üzerine güvenlik önlemleri üst seviyeye çıkarıldı.

Polis ekipleri ilçede soruşturma ve arama başlattı.

Bu arada Irak Türkmen Cephesi yayınladığı bildirisiyle meydana gelen saldırıları kınadı. Irak Türkmen Cephesi olarak sivillere insanların hedef alındığını bildiren Irak Türkmen Cephesi genel olarak Irak ve özellikle de Kerkük'ün güvenliğinin korunması ve insanların can güvenliklerinin sağlanmasına çalışmasını istedi.

Irak Türkmen Cephesi bildirisinde güvenlik zafının ortadan kaldırılmasını istedi

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=7014>

• EL İBADİ GÜVENLİK DOSYASI

Başbakan Nuri Maliki başkanlığındaki Kanun Devleti Listesi yetkilerinden Hayder El İbadi Güvenlik dosyasının siyasallaştırılmaması gerektiği konusunda uyarıda bulundu.

Haydar El İbadi devletin idari yapılandırılmasının Parlamento'da yasa tasarılarının kabul edilmesi ve Anayasada değişikliklerin

Yapılmasından geçeceğini belirterek Parlamento'nun siyasi baskılarla karşı karşıya kaldığını söyledi.

El İbadi, güvenlik dosyalarının siyasallaştırılması, terör örgütlerinin ve eski Baas partisi üyelerinin eylemlerinin önünü açacağını ifade etti. El İbadi, geciken Anayasa değişikliğinin de derhal yapılmasını da istedi.

Parlamento'nun geçen dönemde kurulan Anayasa değişikliği komisyonu, siyasi baskılar nedeniyle değiştirildiğini belirtten El İbadi, 2012 yılında, 2012 yılı bütçe yasa tasarısının yanı sıra, Yargının siyasi baskılardan uzak tutulmasına ihtiyaç duyulduğunu söyledi

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6980>

• ABD'NİN IRAK'TAN ÇEKİLMESİ GERİ SAYIMDA

Amerikan Kuvvetleri'nin Irak'tan çekilmesi için geri sayım tüm hızıyla devam ederken, güvenlik güçleri de adeta atağa geçti. Kerkük Polis Akademisi, bir ay boyunca

kentteki güvenlik güçlerine eğitim verecek. Bir ay boyunca verilecek eğitimde, güvenlik güçlerine A'dan Z'ye herşey öğretiliyor.



Kerkük'teki güvenlik güçleri, Amerikan Ordusu'nun Irak'tan çekilmesine hazırlanıyor.

Amerikan Kuvvetleri'nin Irak'tan çekilmesi için geri sayım tüm hızıyla devam ederken, güvenlik güçleri de adeta atağa geçti. Kerkük Polis Akademisi, bir ay boyunca kentteki güvenlik güçlerine eğitim veriyor. Bir ay boyunca verilecek eğitimde, güvenlik güçlerine A'dan Z'ye herşey öğretilecek.

Güvenlik güçlerine değişik alanlarda verilen eğitimler arasında, kontrol noktalarında görevli güvenlik güçlerinin, vatandaşa nasıl davranacağı ve şüpheli araçların nasıl aranacağı öğretiliyor.

Güvenlik güçlerine, daha önceden belirlenen hedeflere nasıl operasyon

düzenleceği ve operasyon düzenlenen bölgenin nasıl güvenlik kordonu altına alınacağı da öğretiliyor. Verilen eğitimde ayrıca, canlı bombaların kullandıkları bele sarılı bombalar, yol kenarına yerleştirilen ve araçlara yapıştırılan bombaların yanısıra, uyuşturucu hakkında da gerekli bilgi veriliyor.

Kerkük Polis Akademisi'nde Bomba İmha Bölüm müdürü Yarbay Mustafa Sami objektiflerimize verdiği demeçte, güvenlik güçlerine verilen eğitimle ilgili bilgi verdi.

Kriminal Soruşturma subayı Albay Abdülrezzak Hüseyin ise objektiflerimize yaptığı açıklamada, bazı eksikliklerin olmasına rağmen, Kerkük Polisi'nin üzerine düşen görevi, % 100 başarıyla yerine getirmeye kadir olduğunu söyledi.

Öte yandan Kerkük Polis Akademisi Müdürü Albay Tahsin Ali Derviş, güvenlik güçlerine eğitim verilmesinde, Kerkük Polis Akademisi'nin kendi kendine güvendiğini bildirdi. Polis Akademisi Müdürü, Kerkük Polisi'nin Kerkük'teki güven ve istikrarı koruyabileceğini da kaydetti

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=7008>

- **Jeffrey: Türkmenlerin Irak'ta Önemli Rollerini Bulmaktadır**

Türkmen Milletvekilleri ABD'nin Irak büyükelçisi James Jeffrey ile ABD güçlerinin çekilmesi sonrasında Irak'taki durum ve Türkmenlerin devamlı bir biçimde gerek Kerkük'te gerekse diğer bölgelerde hedef alınmaları konusu görüşüldü. Büyükelçi Jeffrey Bağdattaki ofisinde Türkmen milletvekillerini karşıladı ve Türkmenlerin Irak'ta siyasi çalışmalarda önemli rollerinin olduğunu belirtti. Görüşmede ABD güçlerinin Iraktan çekilişi sonrası oluşacak durum ele alındı ayrıca Türkmenlerin hedef alınması konusu görüşülerek bu sorunun ciddi boyutlara ulaştığını ve Kerkük'ün güvenliğini tehdit ettiği belirtilerek bu konuya kesin çözümün bulunması gerekliliğine vurgu yapıldı.



Tartışılan tüm konularda Türkmen milletvekilleri ortak görüşü yansıtmışlardır. Irak Türkmen Cephesi başkanı ve Milletvekili Erşat Ealihi, büyükelçi Jeffrey'in Türkmenlerin Irak'taki siyasi

sahnedeki rollerine vurgu yaptığını belirtti. Görüşmeye ITC başkanı ve milletvekili Erşat Salih ile Milletvekilleri Abbas Bayatlı, Hasan Özmen Bayatlı, Jale Neftçi, Müdrike Hasan ve Hasan Vehap katıldılar.

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=6988>

- **KIU delegation meets with US representative in Kirkuk**

A delegation from Kurdistan Islamic Union, Center Six of Kirkuk, visited the US representative diplomat regarding the withdrawal of US forces in the province.

The KIU delegation was comprised of Rebwar Said Gul, head of the center and members of the center and were received by the US representative in Kirkuk.

In the meeting, the security situation and the latest development of the city was discussed.

The KIU relations with US representative was another part of the meeting.

The US representative in the city appreciated the role of the KIU delegation in the city.

<http://peyamner.com/details.aspx?l=4&id=257091>

<http://peyamner.com/details.aspx?l=4&id=257087>

- **Iraq - Iraq Parliament postpones voting on US Forces withdrawal from Iraq**

The Iraqi Parliament has decided on Thursday to postpone voting on the law for the withdrawal of the American Forces from Iraq, Parliament Member, Salam al-Maliki, reported.



"The Parliament has postponed voting on the law for the withdrawal of the American Forces from Iraq, in its session today (Thursday), attended by 236 out of its 325 Parliament members," Maliki told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said the Parliament had voted in its today's session on the two laws on the Trade and Industry Ministries, along with voting in principle on the

law on military crimes courts, during its session that was scheduled to vote on 9 draft-laws.

2. IRAN / İRAN

- **İran'da 12 CIA ajanı yakalandı**

İran'da Amerikan Merkezi Haberalma Teşkilatı (CIA) için çalışan 12 ajanın yakalandığı bildirildi.



İran'ın resmi haber ajansı IRNA'nın haberine göre, İran Meclisi Milli Güvenlik ve Dış Politika Komisyonu üyesi Perviz Sururi, yakalanan 12 kişinin CIA hesabına casusluk yaptıklarının belirlendiğini söyledi.

Ajanların asıl görevinin, İran'ın nükleer, askeri ve güvenlik alanındaki gelişmeleri hakkında bilgi toplamak olduğunu kaydeden Sururi, bu yolla İran'a darbe vurmak isteyenlerin girişimlerinin boşa çıkarıldığını belirtti.

Sururi, İran istihbarat birimlerinin bu başarısıyla gücünü ve yeteneğini bir kez

daha gösterdiğini söyledi. Haberde, CIA için çalışan bazı casusların son aylarda İran ve Lübnan'da yakalandıkları da hatırlatıldı.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25299924/>

- **Türkiye'den gaz transiti izni alındı**

İran İslam Cumhuriyeti Ulusal Gaz Şirketi Genel Sekreteri Cevad Öci, Türkiye'den gaz transit izninin alındığını belirtti.

Basın toplantısında Türkiye ile müzakerelerin sürdüğünü vurgulayan Öci "Türkiye'den yazılı olarak gaz transiti izni alındı ve anlaşmaların imzalanmasından sonra nihai hale gelecek" dedi. Pakistan'ın anlaşmanın iptal edilmesini istediği yönünde çıkan haberleri yalanlayan Öci "Pakistan ile anlaşmamız 2014 yılında geçerli olacak ve Pakistan bu anlaşmaya bir ek konulmasını ve gaz oranının artmasını talep ediyor" dedi.

Öci gelecek üç yılda gaz üretiminin iki kata çıkacağını ve bir milyar 380 milli metre küpe çıkacağını belirtti.

<http://www2.irna.ir/tr/news/view/line-117/1111252855115542.htm>

- **İran, Türkiye ve Azerbaycan dışişleri bakanları yakında bir araya gelecekler**

Azerbaycan Dışişleri Bakanı Yardımcısı Halef Halefov, İran, Türkiye ve Azerbaycan Dışişleri Bakanlarının ikinci toplantısının yakında Nahçıvan Özerk Cumhuriyeti'nde yapılacağını belirtti.

Basın toplantısında konuşan Halefov, "Şu anda bu toplantının tarihinin tam olarak belirlenmesi için Nahçıvan Cumhuriyeti ile müzakere hâlindeyiz." dedi.

Hazar'ın yasal statüsünün belirlenmesi için kıyıdaş ülkelerin müzakerelerine de değinen Halefov "Hazar'daki beş kıyıdaş ülkenin, yasal statüsünün belirlenmesi için anlaşmaya varması mümkün. Hazar Denizi'nin yasal statüsünün belirlenmesi müzakerelerinde kıyıdaş ülkelerin temsilcileri büyük ilerleme kaydetti." dedi.

<http://www2.irna.ir/tr/news/view/line-117/1111252063115414.htm>

- **İran'dan Türkiye'ye radar üssü itirazı**

Tahran, 25 Kasım 2011 - İran İslami Şura Meclisi milli güvenlik ve dış siyaset komisyon başkanı Alaaddin Burucerdi, Türkiye'nin topraklarına NATO radar üssü yerleştirmesine izin vermesine itiraz etti.

MHA - Türkiye son zamanlarda yaptığı ziyarette de Türk yetkililere konuyla ilgili görüş ve itirazlarını bildirdiğini dile getiren Burucerdi, NATO'nun Türkiye'deki faaliyetlerinin başta kendileri olmak üzere bölgenin güvenliğini bozduğunu, Türkiye ve bölgenin güvenliğine hiçbir yardımının olmayacağını söyledi.

Bilindiği gibi Malatya'nın Kürecik bölgesinde kurulması kararlaştırılan NATO radar üssü, Türkiye halkı arasında da büyük tepkilere neden oluyor.

<http://www.mehrnews.com/tr/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1468670>

- **Iranian parliament votes to downgrade ties with Britain**

TEHRAN, Nov. 23 (MNA) -- The Iranian parliament overwhelmingly approved a proposal calling for a reduction in the level of ties with Britain on Wednesday.

After the endorsement of the plan, the lawmakers chanted "God is the Greatest" and "Down with Britain."

Twenty MPs, namely Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Javad Jahangirzdeh, Hassan Kamran, Mohammad Ashouri, Esmail Kowsari, Mohammad Dehqani, Mohammad Saqaii,

Abdolreza Torabi, Hassan Fouladgar, Hossein Fadaii, Mohammad Taqi Rahbar, Parviz Sorouri, Gholam Reza Asadollahi, Mohammad Hossein Farhangi, Ezzatollah Akbari, Shahrokh Ramin, Shahabeddin Sadr, Mohammad Hassan Aboutorabi, Jasem Saedi, and Moayyed Hosseini Sadr, signed the motion.

The move came two days after Britain ordered all British financial institutions to stop doing business with their Iranian counterparts, including the Iranian central bank.

The decision to impose the sanctions was made based on a report by International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano released on November 8, in which he claimed that Iran appears to have worked on designing an atomic bomb.

A number of lawmakers had repeatedly called on the Majlis to ratify a plan to reduce or even sever diplomatic relations with Britain due to its hostile attitude toward Iran and its interference in the country's internal affairs.

On December 19, 2010, the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee voted to completely cut relations with London. The decision was then announced to the Majlis Presiding Board, but no final decision was made.

Following is the text of the proposal:

The British government once again showed its hostile policy toward the nation and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran by making its most recent hostile decision. Besides the dark record of the British government in regard to the Iranian nation before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which is replete with treachery and crimes, the actions taken by this country after the victory of the Islamic Revolution are in line with the same policy, an example of which is (their) provision of full support to terrorist groups. Having normal relations with this country runs contrary to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Foreign Ministry should reduce political relations with the British government to charge d'affaires level within two weeks to safeguard national interests and defend the rights of the

Iranian nation and should reduce economic and trade relations to the lowest level.

In the event the hostile policies of the country of Britain are revised, after reports by the Foreign Ministry and through the approval of the Majlis, relations will be upgraded.

The Foreign Ministry is obliged to prepare a report about other countries that have adopted the same attitude as Britain so that the Majlis can make an appropriate decision.

Majlis condemns London's decision to sanction CBI

In addition, 228 MPs issued a statement on Wednesday condemning the British government's decision to impose sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran.

"We, the representatives, condemn this unfair move and announce that such hostile measures have no impact on the strong will of the Iranian nation and government to continue on the right path of the Islamic Revolution, and we will not budge from the divine causes of the late

Imam (Khomeini) and the Supreme Leader, and the countries of Britain and the United States will take the dream of the Islamic system's retreat to the grave," part of the statement read.

British ambassador should be expelled

In addition, on Wednesday MP Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who is the chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, called on the Foreign Ministry to expel British Ambassador Dominick John Chilcott.

<http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1467751>

3. ISRAEL - PALESTINE / İSRAİL – FİLİSTİN

- **Hamas Türkiye'den Gazze'nin tapusunu istedi**

Hamas, Türkiye'den Osmanlı dönemine ait Gazze'nin tapu ve nüfus kayıtlarını istediklerini, ancak kendilerine verilmediğini belirterek, Cumhurbaşkanı Abdullah Gül ve Başbakan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan'dan yardımcı olmalarını talep etti.



GAZZE - Gazze'deki yönetiminin İçişleri Bakanlığı Sivil İşler Müdürü Riyad Zeytuni, 2008-2009 savaşında ellerindeki kayıtların bombardımanda yok edildiğini, İsrail'in de kendilerine bu belgelerin kopyasını vermeyi reddettiğini kaydetti. Geriye sadece Türkiye'de bu kayıtlara ulaşma imkanı kaldığını, o yüzden de Mayıs ayında Ankara ve İstanbul'a ziyaret gerçekleştirdiklerini belirten Zeytuni, Tapu Kadastro ile Devlet Arşivleri'ne gittiklerini ve talepte bulduklarını ifade etti.

Zeytuni, "Tapular, vakfiyeler ile ilgili belgeler ya da doğum-ölüm kayıtları gibi belgeler bizim için çok önemli. Çünkü onlar bizim geçmişimizi belgeliyor, nereden geldiğimizi, kökenimizi ortaya koyuyor" dedi.

'NEREDEN GELDİĞİMİZİ GÖRDÜK'

"Türkiye'deki kayıtlarda nereden geldiğimizi gördük" Gazze'nin eskiden ticaret yolları üzerinde olduğuna dikkati çeken Zeytuni, Filistin'e gelip yerleşen, evlenen birçok yabancı bulunduğunu,

bunların bazılarının da Osmanlı Türkü olduğunu söyledi.

Türkiye ziyaretlerinde kayıt ve tapuların bir kısmını gördüklerini anlatan Zeytuni, "Aradığımız bazı isimlere bile kayıtlara rastladık. Nereden geldiklerini gösteriyor. Bunlara Türkiye'deki kayıtlarda ulaşılabilir.

Yetkili kardeşlerimizden kopyalarını istedik. Bunların bir kısmı aynen Osmanlı zamanında olduğu gibiydi, hatta bir kısmı Arapçaydı. Örneğin Seyid Haşim, Şeyh Zekeriya ve El Sedra Camileri gibi.

Hatta bu camilerde çalışanların isimleri ve maaşlarını bile gördük" şeklinde konuştu. Zeytuni, ancak kayıtların kendilerine verilmediğini, Filistin Büyükelçiliği üzerinden başvuru yapmalarının istendiğini söyledi.

GÜL VE ERDOĞAN'A ÇAĞRI

Filistin daha önce hiç bağımsız olmadığını, bir devletten diğerine geçtiğini dolayısıyla kendi arşivleri olmadığına dikkati çeken Zeytuni, şöyle devam etti:

"Başbakan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan'dan bu kayıtları özellikle de Osmanlı zamanında kayıtlara geçen isimleri, tapuları, ölüm-

doğum kayıtlarını talep ediyoruz. Kendi aslimızı bulmamız bu kayıtlara bağlı.

Cumhurbaşkanı Abdullah Gül'den bu kayıtları istiyoruz zira bunların hepsi Osmanlı arşivlerinde. Bu kayıtlar ancak Filistin'e geldiğinde bir işe yarar. Çünkü bizler ile ilgili."

OSMANLI 4 ASIR HÜKMETTİ

Gazze, 2007 yılından beri Batı Şeria'da kurulu Ramallah yönetiminden bağımsız olarak Hamas tarafından yönetiliyor. İki hükümet arasında da ciddi anlamda sorun yaşandığından birçok konuda işbirliğine gidilemiyor. Türkiye'deki büyükelçilik ise Ramallah yönetimini temsil ediyor.

Gazze, dünyadaki en eski şehirlerden biri olarak kabul ediliyor. Bulgular, Gazze'deki insanlık tarihinin 5000 yıl öncesine dayandığını gösteriyor.

Eski Mısır, Roma, ardından da Bizans'ın egemenliği atına giren Gazze, 635 yılında İslam orduları tarafından fethedildi. Eyyubiler ve Memlûklülerin de hüküm sürdüğü Gazze, 1516'da Yavuz Sultan Selim'in Mısır seferi sırasında Osmanlı topraklarına katıldı. Osmanlı, 7 Kasım

1917'de Gazze'den çekilmek zorunda kaldı.

Ardından İngiliz hakimiyetine giren Gazze, 1948 Arap-İsrail Savaşı sonucu Mısır, 1967 savaşında ise İsrail'in kontrolü altına girdi. İlk intifadan 6 yıl sonra İmzalanan Oslo Barış Anlaşması ile İsrail askerleri Gazze'den çekildi.

Daha sonra İsrail yerleşim yerleri de kaldırılınca Gazze tamamen Filistin'in kontrolü altına girdi. Ancak Hamas'ın iktidara gelmesiyle Gazze'ye kara, hava ve denizden abluka uygulanmaya başlandı. 2008-2009 savaşında ise binden fazla Gazzeli hayatını kaybetti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25299988/>

- **Jerusalem wary as Abbas moves closer to Hamas**

Likud MK: I will petition international community to isolate Palestinian unity gov't including Hamas.



Deputy Prime Minister Silvan Shalom (Likud) expressed dissatisfaction Friday at a Palestinian unity government shared with Hamas.

Speaking to Army Radio, Likud MK Silvan Shalom said that despite Israeli efforts to jump-start the diplomatic process with the Palestinian Authority, the diplomatic reconciliation between the historically rivaling Palestinian factions shows their disinterest in reconnecting with Jerusalem.

"We are at a critical point today," Shalom told Army Radio. "Israel is trying to renew the peace process, but the Palestinians refuse any direct contact with us."

Shalom said he would request from the international community to isolate a Palestinian government where Hamas shares the reins.

"I am going to petition the international community not to speak with a [unity] government that includes Hamas," Shalom said.

The Likud MK's comments echoed those made by Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu's spokesman Mark Regev on Thursday, who said that “the closer Abbas gets to Hamas, the further away he gets from peace.”

Still, diplomatic officials in Jerusalem, especially those within Netanyahu's political camp, said they believed that any progress in the reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas is more show than reality, according to Army Radio Friday.

On Thursday Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal announced that they had agreed to work as “partners,” but failed to reach agreement over the formation of a Palestinian unity government.

They did agree, however, to hold presidential and parliamentary elections in May and to release each other's detainees from their prisons

<http://www.ipost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=246975>

- **Congressmen seek probe into PA use of US funds**

Move follows MK Matalon letters to US House, Senate, detailing PA president's

policy to pay convicted terrorists released by Israel.

Florida Democratic Congressman Ted Deutsch and New York Democratic Congressman Steve Israel have asked US Comptroller-General Gene Dodaro to investigate the Palestinian Authority's use of American funding.

The request this week came three weeks after MK Moshe Matalon (Israel Beiteinu) had sent a letter to the budget committees of the US Senate and House of Representatives, informing them of PA President Mahmoud Abbas's policy of paying freed Palestinian prisoners who had been convicted of murder \$5,000 and building them new homes.

Matalon received a copy of the congressmen's letter on Thursday.

“Many of the released prisoners were convicted of orchestrating and carrying out Hamas-sponsored terrorist attacks in Israel, including the bombing of a Tel Aviv nightclub that killed 21 people, the attack on a Netanya hotel that killed 29 people, and the bombing of a Sbarro Pizzeria that

killed 15 people,” Deutsch and Israel wrote.

The two congressmen explained to Dodaro that they “are troubled by reports of President Abbas’ use of Palestinian Investment Fund (PIF) funds to provide housing for these convicted terrorists.”

According to the letter, the US contributed to the PIF after PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad founded it in 2002 “under a framework of transparency and accountability.” However, recently there has been “ambiguity surrounding the amount of US taxpayer dollars contributed to the PIF,” Deutsch and Israel wrote.

Aside from the issue of Abbas building houses for convicted terrorists, Deutsch and Israel “are concerned about the increasing lack of transparency for the PIF as well as reports that Prime Minister Fayyad is no longer overseeing the fund and that Hamas has taken control of PIF assets in Gaza.”

The letter also requested that the US Government Accountability Office, which Dodaro heads, investigate whether US Economic Support Funds (ESF) given to the

PA were used to fund Abbas’s trips around the world “on his misguided attempt to unilaterally declare statehood at the United Nations... efforts that are in direct contravention of US policy.”

The congressmen said US ESF should not be used “to fund Mr. Abbas’ extensive lobbying to achieve a Palestinian state by any means other than direct negotiations with Israel.”

They added that “the US must be unequivocally committed to ensuring that American taxpayer dollars are used to serve the interests of the US and our allies around the world.”

In his letter three weeks ago, Matalon had written that Abbas was rewarding “unrepentant terrorists.”

“At the ceremony Abbas held [in honor of released prisoners] in Ramallah, he is reported as having praised these individuals for their ‘courage and sacrifice,’” the Israel Beiteinu MK wrote. “The atrocities referred to by Abbas as acts of ‘courage’... include the murders of scores of innocents, including women and children.”

He continued: "I feel it incumbent upon myself to present these facts to you, as a fellow parliamentarian, not as interference in your parliamentary activities, but rather in order to ensure that the full facts are before you, as you deliberate on whether to continue extending financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority."

<http://www.ipost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=246918>

4. AFRICA and EGYPT / AFRİKA ve MISIR

- **Libya'da muhaliflerin gizli ölüm kampları**

Libya'da Muammer Kaddafi iktidardan uzaklaştırılarak öldürülmesine rağmen, muhalifler hala 7 binden fazla kişiyi ölüm kamplarında tutuyor. BM'nin raporuna göre, muhaliflerin gizlice oluşturduğu bu kamplarda işkence de yapılıyor.



BM Genel Sekreteri Ban Ki-mun'un hazırlattığı rapor İngiliz Independent gazetesi tarafından ele geçirildi. Haberde, Kaddafi rejimi döneminde akrabaları öldürülen silahlı muhaliflerin intikam almak için, Libya hükümetinin bilgisi dışında ölüm kampları oluşturduğu belirtildi. Çocuk ve yaşlıların da tutulduğu kamplarda işkence ve kötü muamele yapıldığı iddia edildi.

Kaddafi'nin memleketi Sirte'de ismi gizli kalması şartıyla konuşan bir kişi, Kaddafi'nin öldürülmesi sonrasında muhalif savaşçıların terörüne maruz kaldıklarını söyledi. "Derin bir cinnet durumu yaşanıyor. Özellikle genç muhalif savaşçılar ve İslamcı militanlar, eski rejimle ilişkisini düşündükleri herkesi terörize etmeye başladı" dedi.

Ulusal Geçiş Konseyi, Libya'de teorik olarak her tarafta kontrolü sağlamış durumda. Ancak Ulusal Geçiş Konseyi üyeleri bile, eski rejimleri ilişkileri olduğu suçlamalarına maruz kalmamak için olanlara göz yumuyor.

'BAŞINDAN BERİ BİR İÇ SAVAŞTI'

Independent gazetesinin deneyimli muhabiri Patrick Cockburn de, Kaddafi

karşıtı güçlerin yedi bin kişi kamp ve hapisanelerde tuttuđu haberinin kendisi için sürpriz olmadıđı yorumunu yaptı. Cuckburn, "Libya'daki çatışmalar, yabancı hükümetlerin ya da yabancı medyanın belirttiđi gibi bir özgürlük mücadelesinden çok, daha başından beri Libyalılar arasında bir iç savaşı" dedi.

PARALI ASKER DEĞİL GÖÇMEN İŞÇİDİLER
Uluslararası Af Örgütü'nün bir raporuna göre ise, Libya'da göçmen işçi olarak çalışan bazı Afrika kökenlilerin, Kaddafi'nin paralı askerleri olarak gözaltına alınarak, televizyonlarda gösterildiđi, daha sonra ise serbest bırakıldıđı belirtildi.

OCAKTA MAHKEMEYE ÇIKARILACAK
Libyalı muhalifler tarafından yakalanan Seyfülislam Kaddafi'nin önümüzdeki ocak ayında mahkemeye çıkarılacağı da iddia edildi.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25299971/>

- **Tahrir'de Tantavi'nin kellesi isteniyor**
Mısır'da ordunun iktidarı bırakması için Tahrir meydanında yapılan gösteriler yeniden şiddetlendi. Ordu, ölümlerden dolayı özür dilediđini açıklamasına rağmen protestocular Tantavi'nin kellesini istiyor.



Mısır genelinde sivil yönetim isteđi ile gösterilere başlayan muhalefet, iktidardaki Yüksek Askeri Konsey Başkanı Mareşal Hüseyin Tantavi görevi bırakana kadar Tahrir Meydanı'nda ayrılmayacaklarını açıkladı. Şimdiye kadar polisin eylemcilere müdahalesi nedeniyle 36 kişi yaşamını yitirdi. 28 Kasım'da yapılması planlanan parlamento seçimlerinin ertelenmesi gündemde.

İçişleri Bakanı'nın, seçimlerin ertelenmesi önerisini, askeri yönetime sunduđu öne sürüldü. Tahrir Meydanı'nda çatışmalar tekrar başladı. Meydandan siren sesleri yükselirken, alanda bulunan 40'tan fazla ambulansın hastanelere durmaksızın yaralı taşıdıkları gözleniyor.

EN AZ 36 KİŞİ HAYATINI KAYBETTİ
Tahrir Meydanı'nda bulunan Ömer Makram Cami ile Merkez Kilisesi hastane haline getirildi. Yaralılar motosiklet ambulanslar ile cami ve kilisede kurulu seyyar hastanelere taşınarak burada ilk müdahaleleri yapılıyor. Mısır medyasına

göre, güvenlik güçleri ile göstericiler arasındaki çatışmalarda, ülke genelinde 35'den fazla kişi hayatını kaybetti, üç bine yakın kişi de yaralandı.

'SİVİL YÖNETİM İSTİYORUZ'

Tahrir Meydanı'na akın eden Mısırlılar, bir kez daha Tantavi'ye "Git" diye seslenirken, protestoculara bazı Selefi gruplar da destek veriyor. El Ezher Kurumu'na bağlı bir grup cami imamı göstericilere destek vermek amacı akşam saatlerinde Tahrir'e gelerek, "Sivil yönetim istiyoruz" sloganları attı.

Meydanda bulunan fakat çatışmalara katılmayan Selefiler, meydana kurulan seyyar hastanelere motosikletle yaralı taşıma, göstericilerin su ve yemek ihtiyaçlarının karşılanması ve alanın belirli bölümlerinin güvenliğinin sağlanması için çalışıyor.

Sol, liberal ve laik gençlik grupları ise güvenlik güçlerinin yoğun saldırısı altında içişleri bakanlığına ulaşmak için çaba harcıyor. Mısır Sağlık Bakanı Amr Hilmi, olaylar sırasında bazı kişilerin gerçek mermiyle öldürüldüğünün tespit edildiğini belirterek, Mısır Savcılığının söz konusu mermilerin kaynağını araştırdığını söyledi.

Hilmi, güvenlik güçlerinin göstericilere karşı kullandığı göz yaşartıcı bombaların ABD yapımı olduğuna değinerek, söz konusu bombaların etkilerinin araştırılması için bir inceleme komisyonu kurulduğunu açıkladı. Mısır Sağlık Bakanı Amr Hilmi, komisyonun, göz yaşartıcı gazın içerisindeki kimyasalları araştıracağına dikkati çekerek, bakanlığının son günlerde halktan yoğun şekilde bayılma, nöbet ve boğulma şikayetleri aldığını ifade etti.

KARAKOL VE BAKANLIK OFİSLERİNE SALDIRI

Mısır İçişleri Bakanlığı ise ülke genelinde polis karakollarına ve bakanlık ofislerine saldırılar olduğunu ileri sürdü. Bakanlıktan yapılan açıklamada, başkent Kahire ve ikinci büyük kent İskenderiye'nin de aralarında bulunduğu 13 ayrı kentte polis karakollarına saldırı düzenlendiği iddia edildi.

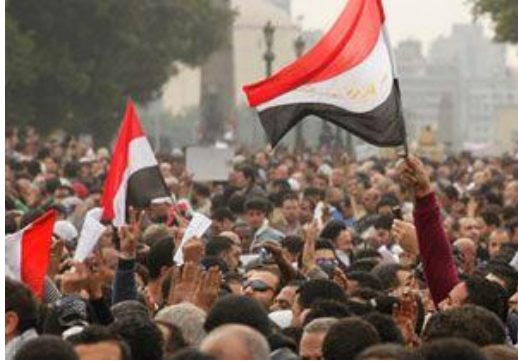
Bakanlık, bu saldırıların bazılarının tutukluları kaçırmaya yönelik girişim olduğu değerlendirmesinde bulunulduğunu belirterek, birçok saldırının halk desteği alan polis kuvvetleri tarafından püskürtüldüğünü vurguladı. Mısır'da yayımlanan bağımsız El Masri El

Yovm Gazetesi ise Bahariye kentinde halkın, karakolların saldırılara karşı korunması için sokak komiteleri oluşturduğunu yazdı.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25299912/>

- **Mısırlı generaller özür diledi**

Mısır ordusunun en kıdemli iki generali, son bir haftada Kahire ve diğer büyük kentlerde çıkan çatışmalar sırasında, protestocuların yaşamını yitirmiş olması dolayısıyla özür diledi.



Televizyondan bir açıklama yapan komutanlar, tüm Mısır halkına başsağlığı diledi. Mısır'ın "sadık evlatları arasından" ölenler olmasının üzüntü verici olduğunu kaydetti. Bu, iktidardaki askeri konseyin olayların başından bu yana yaptığı ilk özür açıklaması.

Askeri Konsey Başkanı Muhammed Tantavi ise geçtiğimiz günlerde yaptığı açıklamada, seçimlerin 2012 yazında

yapılacağını söyleyip, eylemcilerden dağılmalarını istemekle yetinmişti.

BBC Türkçe'de yer alan habere göre, askeri konseyden yapılan son açıklamada, ölümlerin sorumlusu olan kişilerin adalet önüne çıkarılacağı vadedildi. Orgeneraller açıklamalarında ayrıca, halka kendilerini Hüsnü Mübarek rejimi ile bir tutmama çağrısı yaptı.

Orgeneral Muhammed el Essar, "İktidar arzusu içinde değiliz, iktidarda kalmayı sürdürmek istemiyoruz" dedi.

"Yaşananlar nedeniyle içimiz kanıyor. Dileriz bu kriz bitecek ve inşallah yinelenmeyecek" diye konuştu.

Bununla birlikte yetkililer, gelecek hafta yapılması öngörülen genel seçimin süregiden gerilime rağmen ertelenmeyeceğini de teyit etti.

Orgeneral Muhtar el Molla, genel seçimin planlandığı şekilde yapılacağını duyurdu.

Molla, göstericilerin taleplerine saygı duyduklarını bununla birlikte eylemcilerin Mısır'ın bütününün görüşünü yansıtmadığını belirtti.

Kahire'de sokaklar gergin

Mısır'da askerlerin iktidarı bir an önce sivil bir geçiş yönetimine bırakması talebiyle yapılan eylemlerde Cumartesi günü patlak veren çatışmalar sırasında en az 30 kişi yaşamını yitirdi.

Dün gece din adamlarının araya girmesi ile ilan edilen ateşkes, Tahrir Meydanı'ndaki şiddeti bir süreliğine dindirmişti.

Ancak meydan ve çevresinde, eylemlerini sürdüreceklerini söyleyen binlerce kişi var. Gösteriler cumhurbaşkanlığı seçimlerinin 2013'e kalabileceği, hazırlanacak yeni anayasada ordunun sivil denetime tabi olmayacağı gibi haberler üzerine başladı. Mısır muhalefeti Konsey'in iktidarı derhal sivil bir geçiş yönetimine bırakmasını talep ediyor.

Bu çatışmalar, ülkede Hüsnü Mübarek yönetiminin devrilmesi ile sonuçlanan çatışmalardan bu yana en ciddi şiddet olayları. Başkent Kahire'deki Tahrir Meydanı'nda Yüksek Askeri Konsey'i istifaya zorlamak için toplanan binlerce Mısırlı protestocu meydandan

ayrılmamaya kararlı görünüyor. Gece gündüz meydanda kalan göstericiler göz yaşartıcı gazın etkilerine karşı yüzlerini maskelerle korumaya çalışıyorlar.

Ayrıca İskenderiye ve İsmailiye kentinde de çatışmalar yaşandı. İsmailiye'deki eylemlerde en az bir kişinin öldüğü bildiriliyor.

BM İnsan Hakları Komisyonu Başkanı Navi Pillay, Mısır'da hafta sonundan bu yana en az 30 kişinin öldürüldüğü olaylar hakkında derhal ve bağımsız soruşturma açılmasını, sorumlu bulunanlardan hesap sorulmasını istedi.

<http://www.t24.com.tr/misirda-oldurulen-protestocular-icin-generaller-ozur-diledi/haber/183515.aspx>

- **Egypt activists step up pressure on military**

Thousands camp out in Tahrir Square amid calls for another mass protest as military rulers move to form new cabinet. Cairo, Egypt - Demonstrators demanding an immediate end to military rule in Egypt are gearing up for another mass rally in the shadow of a fragile truce between protesters and security forces in the capital.

Activists have called for a "million-man march" in central Cairo and other cities to begin on Friday following Muslim noon prayers, in a bid to demand the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces transfer power to a civilian government.

After nearly a week of deadly clashes between protesters and government security forces in the capital and elsewhere, the country's military council tasked former prime minister Kamal al-Ganzouri on Thursday with forming a new cabinet, according to Egyptian media reports.

Ganzouri, who headed the government from 1996 to 1999 under the deposed president, Hosni Mubarak, agreed in principle to lead a national government, the state newspaper Al-Ahram reported, citing sources close to Ganzouri.

After the mass uprising earlier this year, Ganzouri distanced himself from Mubarak in a television interview, prompting several activists to recommend him as a future presidential candidate.

His reported nomination followed a meeting with SCAF head Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi on Thursday.

Tense calm

However, the news did little to change the attitudes of anti-SCAF protesters who have been camped out in Cairo's Tahrir Square for days. Upon hearing the news of Ganzouri's reported appointment, demonstrators erupted in raucous jeers, chanting "we don't want him".

In a further sign that the reported appointment could fail to put an end to seven days of mass rallies, thousands of protesters were already camped out in Tahrir Square before dawn on Friday morning, despite chilly temperatures and a blanket of dense fog.

Their presence came amid a tense calm in the square and its surrounding streets - streets that had been the scene of intense fighting between police armed with tear gas and rubber bullets and protesters throwing rocks and petrol bombs since Saturday.

The violence, mostly halted under the terms of a tenuous truce on Thursday, left 41 people dead and more than 3,200 injured across the country.

SCAF apologised for the deaths of demonstrators on Thursday and pledged to hold parliamentary elections scheduled for November 28 on time, despite a push from activists and some political parties to postpone them.

The SCAF "presents its regrets and deep apologies for the deaths of martyrs from among Egypt's loyal sons during the recent events in Tahrir Square", it said on Thursday in a statement on its Facebook page.

It also called on "honourable citizens" to protect the square, separate the protesters from interior ministry riot police and arrest those who are found suspicious, raising concerns among some that the announcement had given license for street violence.

Fragile truce

The military also began asserting a firmer street presence, promising to help police

secure the country during the voting and erecting a two-metre-tall concrete barricade on Mohamed Mahmoud Street.

The street leads towards the interior ministry and has been the focal point of violence between riot police and crowds of young men.

However, some protesters said they feared the cessation in fighting would not last long - evidenced in part by the numbers of young men who remained eager on Thursday to break through a human cordon preventing them from heading to the front line of fighting and violating the truce.

But protesters said they had another reason to fear, as well.

Eslam Yousry, a Cairo doctor who was volunteering in a makeshift medical tent behind the frontline, said he had seen military vehicles parked on a street leading to the interior ministry.

Where the tanks were absent, however, police and protesters were separated only by hastily constructed barricades.

He said this meant in essence, that security forces were serious about protecting the interior ministry, but not about ensuring peace was maintained between protesters and riot police.

"People are afraid of military tanks. If they see the tanks, they won't do anything," Yousry told Al Jazeera.

"But with no tanks, all it will take is for one person to throw a rock, and the truce is over."

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/2011112532752717345.html>

- **Low turnout feared as Moroccans vote**

First polls under the new constitution will test reforms made by the king amid boycott calls by February 20 Movement.



The polls are the first under a new constitution, proposed by the king and approved in a referendum [EPA]

Polling stations have opened in Morocco's parliamentary election which risks being marred by low turnout with a pro-reform movement calling for a boycott.

The polls on Friday are the first under a new constitution, proposed by King Mohammed VI and approved in a July 1 referendum amid popular uprisings in nearby countries.

Voting stations will close at 7pm (19:00 GMT) with the first provisional official results expected several hours later. Final results will be announced on Saturday.

Opinion polls are not allowed in the North African country but observers said the Islamist opposition Justice and Development Party is likely to win the largest number of seats.

The party's main rival is the Coalition for Democracy, a loose eight-party pro-monarchy bloc that includes Finance Minister Salaheddine Mezouar's National Rally of Independents party.

Overall 31 parties are vying for the 395 seats in the lower house of parliament -

70 more than during the last election in 2007.

The new seats are reserved for women and younger deputies in a bid to give an assembly so far dominated by ranking public figures a more modern look.

The amended constitution gives more powers to parliament and the prime minister, who now must be appointed by the king from the party which wins the most seats in the assembly.

Boycott call

Some voters in the nation of 35 million people said they did not plan to cast their ballots because they had no faith that legislators would work to improve their lives.

The pro-reform February 20 Movement, which was responsible for the protests staged just before the king announced his plans to reform the constitution, has called for a boycott of the election.

It argues the constitutional reforms do not go far enough and that the elections will

only give credibility to an undemocratic government.

More than 1,000 young people who have degrees but are unemployed staged a demonstration in Rabat on Thursday, demanding jobs and joining the calls to boycott the vote.

With authorities concerned about voter turnout, Omar Bendourou, a constitutional law professor at Rabat's Mohamed V University, said they would "do all they can" to ensure turnout is higher than the 37 per cent recorded in the last elections.

He said "a strong turnout in the 2011 elections would give credibility to the constitutional reform adopted in July".

"And it would give them some credibility, a favourable image abroad of how the kingdom responded to protests."

While the constitutional reform devolved some of the king's powers to parliament and the prime minister, he remains the head of state and the military and still appoints ambassadors and diplomats.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2011/11/20111125143852639.html>

- **Libya displays evidence of cluster bombs**

In Misrata, scene of some of the worst fighting during anti-Gaddafi uprising, residents peruse weapons of war.

In Misrata, a coastal city that saw some of the fiercest fighting during the uprising against Muammar Gaddafi this spring, residents can now peruse evidence of the weapons used against them.

Among the shells and canisters from Britain, France, Russia, Serbia and others are Spanish-made MAT-120 "mortar cargo bombs," a cluster munition that became infamous when journalists and Human Rights Watch discovered its use by Gaddafi's forces during Misrata's siege.

Not long after Spain sold the MAT-120s to Libya in 2008, it signed the international ban on such weapons. Ali Muhamad, a fighter turned curator at the streetside weapons expo, said he had never heard of cluster bombs before Misrata but soon became used to their distinct whistle and explosion.

"To profit from this killing and destruction is wrong," Muhamad said.

Al Jazeera's Anita McNaught reports from Misrata.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2011/11/2011112580120603.html>

- **New Libyan government sworn in**

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya's transitional leaders swore on a Quran to uphold the ideals of the revolution that toppled Muammar Gaddafi as they took their oaths of office Thursday, another key step in the country's hoped-for march toward democracy.

The lineup of relative unknowns, almost all of them older men, will confront daunting challenges, like establishing control over the fractured nation after the ousting of Gaddafi's 42-year regime, along with building up state institutions practically from scratch.

Prime Minister Prime Minister Abdurrahim el-Keib took his vow before the transitional council's leader, Mustafa Abdel-Jalil. He then placed his hand on an

ornately decorated Quran and swore to "remain loyal to the goals" of the revolution.

El-Keib said he and his ministers were "upbeat" and optimistic about leading Libya toward elections, scheduled to take place by next June.

"We are looking forward to having an exciting seven months ahead of us, with lots of things to do and hopefully good results," el-Keib told reporters after the ceremony.

One by one, the ministers took their oath before approaching Abdel-Jalil and shaking his hand. Some, moved by the symbolic moment, also embraced him as they stood before two national flags.

The transitional Cabinet includes 24 ministers, though several, including the defense minister, were missing from Thursday's ceremony. The prime minister explained that they were out of Tripoli, some of them attending to personal preparations in their hometowns before taking up their new posts.

One member of the transitional council, Taher Diab, called it a historic moment and said the new leaders were "overjoyed."

"We are happy that we have arrived at this day after long years of struggle," he told The Associated Press.

"The challenge is more than it was before," he said. "The rehabilitation of the country — building Libya is not an easy task."

But, he declared: "We are prepared for it."

El-Keib pledged to represent the interests of all Libyans in the country's struggle for unity.

"I am a son of all Libyans," he said. "I will represent everyone and share wealth with everyone."

Among the institutions that must be built is a justice system that will be able to put on trial two key members of the Gaddafi regime — Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, the dictator's recently captured son and one-time heir-apparent, and the ex-intelligence chief, Abdullah al-Senoussi.

The International Criminal Court has charged them both with crimes against humanity for alleged atrocities committed during the recent civil war.

Libyan authorities insist that they be tried in Libya and not at the court in The Hague, Netherlands, a decision aimed at asserting their national authority. However, they have promised to work with the ICC and the United Nations in investigating the alleged crimes.

ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo told The Associated Press on Thursday that the court received the formal pledge of cooperation in a letter from Abdul-Jalil.

Moreno-Ocampo said he was satisfied with that move, which appeared to settle a dispute between the international court and Libyan authorities over which body should try Seif al-Islam Gaddafi.

Moreno-Ocampo said the most important thing is for "face of the old regime" to face justice.

It "is very important for the world and for Libya to understand what happened here,

how they attacked these people, how they killed these people," Moreno-Ocampo said.

He said investigations are under way into the alleged crimes committed by Gaddafi's son and that he believed it would be ready for trial in a few months.

Seif al-Islam was captured on Saturday and is being held by fighters from the Libyan town of Zintan, who flew him there after his arrest in the south. He appeared to be in good health despite a hand injury, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which visited him Tuesday. There have been concerns about his health, because his father was killed after being captured Oct. 20.

Officials with the NTC have reported that al-Senoussi, the former intelligence chief, has also been captured. But some later cast doubt on that assertion, and his whereabouts are not known.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27431>

- **With dream in reach, Egypt's Brotherhood stumbles**

CAIRO (AP) — For months, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood has focused single-mindedly on this moment — parliamentary elections beginning Monday that the fundamentalist group is expected to dominate. Now it may be a pyrrhic victory.

The Brotherhood stayed on the sidelines of this week's protests by secular liberal groups demanding the country's military rulers step down, hurting its image among key sectors of the Egyptian public who accuse the group of siding with the generals and selling out democracy demands to gain power.

By staying out of the protests, "the Brotherhood has made it clear that they want elections because they want the seat of power, no matter what that seat looks like," said Abdel-Jalil el-Sharnoubi, who once headed the Brotherhood's website until he quit the group earlier this year in frustration with its leadership.

Ever since the Feb. 11 fall of autocratic leader Hosni Mubarak, fears have been growing among some Egyptians that the country would take a strong turn toward Islamic fundamentalism.

The Brotherhood was long repressed under Mubarak but it built up Egypt's largest and most disciplined political organization, with tens of thousands of members around the country, as well as a network of charities providing food, money and medical care to the poor. They have been campaigning furiously for months, while liberal, leftist and secular parties that arose since Mubarak's fall have been disorganized and divided, struggling to build up their national presence.

But the group's popularity has limits. Particularly, even many Egyptians who have no problem with greater religious conservatism in public life are suspicious that the Brotherhood is too authoritarian in its ways and too eager to rule. For that reason, the blow to the Brotherhood reputation stings, undermining the image it has pushed hard in its election campaign that it is a trustworthy, pious group that — as their slogan declares — "brings good for Egypt."

The explosion of protests against the military, which stepped in to rule when Mubarak fell, pushed the Brotherhood

into a corner. Activists accuse the generals of acting as much the dictators as Mubarak and seeking to retain power. The protests, which began Saturday, have only grown as security forces try to suppress them, killing nearly 40 people even as the crowds have swollen to tens of thousands.

The Brotherhood refused to join the rally out of fear they would swell out of control and delay the elections. On Tuesday, the Brotherhood and several smaller parties met with the generals of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and agreed to a compromise.

Under the deal, the military would form a new interim civilian government, parliamentary elections would go ahead on schedule, but presidential elections would be moved up to the end of June, after which the military would step aside.

Protesters rejected the deal, demanding the generals surrender power immediately.

The damage from staying out of Tahrir may not be heavy enough to set back the Brotherhood's election showing, given its powerful campaign machine. In one

possible scenario, the violence in Cairo's Tahrir Square and in cities around the country could even benefit it. If turmoil reduces turnout at the polls, the Brotherhood's results could be inflated because its supporters are the most organized and will cast ballots in large numbers no matter what.

But the chaos will undermine the legitimacy of the vote, and the parliament that emerges will have a deeply damaged mandate. Many liberals already say the parliament won't be truly representative. Even if the Brotherhood and other Islamic parties gain the largest bloc or majority, they will have a difficult time pushing through any agenda at a time when divisions among all Egypt's factions have been enflamed by the past week's violence.

And the prize itself is not so sweet — a legislature and government under the shadow of the military, which will keep its overwhelming power at least until the end of June, after presidential elections are held. The military, as head of state, is attempting to take a major role in writing the next constitution, a process that parliament has expected to oversee.

"Whatever leadership emerges from the election will only be secretaries for the military, and if elections take place, the only result will be to divide Egyptians more," said el-Sharnoubi, the former Brotherhood activist.

Younger Brotherhood members have defied the leadership's decision and joined the demonstration. Loyalties among Brotherhood youth have been increasingly fraying since the uprising against Mubarak as cadres feel pressured to choose between the group and the "revolution."

Mohammed al-Gebbah was running for election in the Nile Delta province of Damietta on the Brotherhood's slate, but he froze his campaign — and his membership in the group — to join the crowds in Tahrir.

"I couldn't imagine myself campaigning while my people here got killed for no reason but only calling for freedom," he said, standing at his tent in the square. "How could I be elected under the authority of the military council, whose hands are stained with blood of the Egyptians."

"These elections are Egypt's, not the elections of the Brotherhood's leaders," he said. "The Brothers are not all of Egypt, they are part of Egypt."

Al-Gabbah says he still hopes to reform the Brotherhood from within. But in past months, others have broken completely to join other parties, including forming a new movement called the Egyptian Current, which avoids religious references in its rhetoric altogether.

The Brotherhood leadership "is working just like Mubarak regime," said Ahmed Zahran, an Egyptian Current activist. "It has lost sensibility of what the street wants. It has lost the people's sympathy."

Brotherhood officials have insisted that the decision to stay out of the square was to avoid chaos that would hurt the country. The deal they reached with the military, they point out, moves up the date for the military to hand over power, which under the generals' previous timetable would not have come until late 2012 or early 2013.

Kamal el-Helbawi, formerly a senior figure in the Brotherhood who quit the group, said the dispute could diminish the number of seats they win in parliament but "not very seriously."

The problem, he said, is that the alternatives in the campaign are not strong. Several liberal and leftist parties have formed, but they are far less known than the Brotherhood and have been unable to unify their ranks because of personal and political disputes.

"If there was an alternative," the Brotherhood chances would be "limited," he said.

Estimates of how much of parliament the Brotherhood could win have varied, a reflection of how unpredictable Egypt has become since Mubarak's fall. Participation was minimal in elections under the old regime and choices were restricted, so the leanings of vast swaths of the population of 85 million are unknown. Observers and Brotherhood members have predicted anywhere from 20 percent to 50 percent.

Under Mubarak, the Brotherhood ran in parliamentary elections, scoring its biggest

victory in 2005 when it took 20 percent of the seats.

"The situation is very fluid right now and the undecided voters are much more right now," Khalil Annani, expert in political Islamic groups said. I don't think there is a single force will take the majority."

Other Islamic groups are also running, particularly the ultraconservative Salafis, who follow an ideology close to puritanical Saudi Arabia, and parties more moderate than the Brotherhood. But the chances of them forming an "Islamic bloc" in parliament are unclear because of longtime divisions between them. Early in the campaign, the Brotherhood attempted an election alliance with the Salafis, who later quit complaining that the Brotherhood was too domineering.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27425>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON / ÜRDÜN

• Mikati to quit if STL funding fails

By Hussein Dakroub

The Daily Star

Mikati: "I don't want to expose the Resistance or Lebanon to danger."

BEIRUT: Prime Minister Najib Mikati said Thursday night he would resign if the Cabinet failed next week to approve the payment of Lebanon's share to the funding of a U.N.-backed court, in a dramatic move that would plunge the divided country into further political turmoil.

Mikati warned that failure to fund the Special Tribunal for Lebanon would lead to the imposition of U.N. sanctions and the country's isolation by the international community.

His threat to step down came as Mikati was racing against time to meet a Dec. 15 deadline for the funding of the STL or face the possibility of a confrontation with the international community. The Netherlands-based STL is probing the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Asked what he would do if the Cabinet failed to approve paying Lebanon's more than \$30 million share to the STL's annual budget, Mikati said in an interview with LBCI television: "The criterion is the Lebanese interest. I cannot imagine myself as prime minister with Lebanon under my

mandate failing to honor its international obligations or is isolated by the international community. Simply, with the resignation I would be protecting Lebanon if the [STL's] funding was not approved. My dream has been to protect Lebanon."

"I think with my resignation, I will be protecting Lebanon if the Cabinet decided not to approve the funding. If I stayed in the government, sanctions will be imposed on Lebanon," he said.

Mikati added that his resignation would be neutralizing Lebanon from possible sanctions.

"My concern is Lebanon. I cannot be a prime minister and expose Lebanon to any risk. My advice to all the ministers and [parliamentary] blocs is that they should take the funding [issue] seriously because it is related to Lebanon," said Mikati, who appeared tense at times.

"I don't want to expose the Resistance [Hezbollah] or Lebanon to danger. What matters is to send a signal that Lebanon is committed to international resolutions. This is very important," Mikati said.

He urged those opposing the STL's funding, mainly Hezbollah, the Amal Movement led by Speaker Nabih Berri and Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement to consider the funding of the tribunal as "an insurance policy against the storms in the region."

Mikati said the divisive issue of the tribunal's funding would be put up for a vote at a crucial Cabinet meeting scheduled on Nov. 30 after Finance Minister Mohammad Safadi sent a letter to the Cabinet demanding a loan from the treasury to pay Lebanon's dues to the STL.

"This is a very important and very sensitive matter. Let everyone bear his responsibility," he said.

Hezbollah and its March 8 allies, which reject the STL altogether, let alone funding it, have a majority in Mikati's 30-member Cabinet and can block any decision.

As matters stand now, Mikati said there are 12 ministers who support the STL's funding: six ministers for Mikati, three for President Michel Sleiman and three for Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Jumblatt.

Mikati said he is betting on a change in the attitudes of some March 8 ministers to tilt voting in favor the STL's funding. He added that he did not expect Hezbollah to change its tough stance on the tribunal's funding.

"We are today 12 ministers [supporting the funding]. We can talk with three or four other ministers. What matters is Lebanon," he said.

"If Lebanon decided to finance the tribunal, it would be fulfilling its obligations. We would be opening all the doors for cooperation with the West which could stop if we do not finance the tribunal," Mikati said. "If I financed the tribunal, I would be committed to protecting the Resistance. If Lebanon is strong, the Resistance will be strong," he added.

Asked to comment on repeated calls by the opposition March 14 parties for him to resign, Mikati said: "I will resign when Lebanon's interest requires this."

He said that since he was named prime minister in January to replace former

Prime Minister Saad Hariri's Cabinet which was toppled by the Hezbollah-led March 8 alliance, he has prevented Sunni-Shiite strife.

He defended his government's policy to dissociate Lebanon from Arab or U.N. resolutions condemning Syria over its brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. Mikati's interview came a day after the new STL president, Sir David Baragwanath, held talks with him, Sleiman and Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour on cooperation between Lebanon and the tribunal.

Baragwanath, on his first visit to Lebanon, met Thursday with Justice Minister Shakib Qortbawi and Prosecutor General Saeed Mirza to discuss matters related to the STL's work, the state-run National News Agency reported. Baragwanath was accompanied by STL Vice President Judge Ralph Riachy. The STL chief did speak to reporters after the two meetings. Mirza said it was an introductory meeting.

Meanwhile, the STL denied local media reports Thursday that Baragwanath had warned Lebanese officials of U.N. action if the government failed to approve

Lebanon's share to the tribunal's budget. "Contrary to media reports, the STL president absolutely did not discuss Security Council action against Lebanon, which is outside our jurisdiction," the STL said on the social networking site Twitter.

Earlier Thursday, Mikati reiterated Lebanon's commitment to U.N. resolutions, including the STL's funding, saying this was in the country's national interest. "The Lebanese government renews its confirmation that Lebanon, which has always implemented all international resolutions and respected its financial pledges, will continue in this policy in order to serve its national interest," Mikati said in an opening speech at the Arab Banking Conference.

Aley MP Akram Chehayeb from Jumblatt's parliamentary bloc denied reports that the bloc's three ministers would resign if the Cabinet failed to approve the payment of Lebanon's share to the STL's funding. Jumblatt has repeatedly voiced his support for the tribunal's funding, urging Hezbollah to drop its opposition.

"The Special Tribunal for Lebanon is the cornerstone to put an end to the cycle of

assassinations in this country which has been tortured too much,” Chehayeb told the Voice of Lebanon radio station. “We will not resign from the government. We are for searching for a solution for the funding [issue]. We have said that any government is better than no government.”

MP Ammar Hourri from Hariri’s parliamentary Future bloc predicted the resignation of the Mikati government on Nov. 30 when the Cabinet is scheduled to meet to discuss the issue of the STL’s funding.

“The Cabinet session on Nov. 30, during which the issue of the funding for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon will be brought up, will be the last session for the present government because the other side [Hezbollah and its March 8 allies] is adamant on rejecting the [tribunal’s] funding. The prime minister cannot convince them of his viewpoint,” Hourri told the Voice of Lebanon radio station.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2011/Nov-25/155152-mikati-to-quit-if-stl-funding-fails.ashx#axzz1ehsdqIZf>

6. SYRIA / SURİYE

• Arap Birliği Esad'a bir gün süre verdi

Arap Birliği dışişleri bakanları Mısır'ın başkenti Kahire'de Suriye için toplandı. Birlik, Suriye'ye uluslararası gözlemcilerin ülkeye girmesine izin vermesi için 1 gün süre tanıdı.



Arap Birliği'nin Mısır temsilcisi Afifi Abdel Vahab, Suriye'nin yarın uluslararası gözlemcilerin ülkeye girişine izin vermemesi durumunda ekonomik yaptırımların gündeme geleceğini söyledi.

Protokole imza atmaması halinde Suriye'ye sivil uçuşların yasaklanması ve Suriye Merkez Bankası ile ilişkilerin dondurulması şeklinde gerçekleşebileceği belirtildi.

Suriye'nin öneriyi kabul etmemesi durumunda Arap Birliği ekonomik ve sosyal konseyi yaptırımları görüşmek için cumartesi günü toplanacak, ardından

pazar günü de dışişleri bakanları biraraya gelecek.

'SURIYE HALKINI TÜRKİYE KORUR'

Almanya Dışişleri Bakanı Guido Westerwelle de, Suriye'deki halkın korunması için özellikle Türkiye'yle işbirliğinin önemli olduğuna işaret etti. Westerwelle, Fransa'nın "yardım koridoru" önerisini ise reddetti.

Suriye'deki muhalefetle işbirliğinin daha sıkı hale getirilmesi gerektiğini belirten Westerwelle, AB yaptırımlarının ve BM kararlarının yanı sıra Suriye'deki demokratik güçlerin bir araya getirilerek güçlü bir muhalefetin oluşturulmasının önemli olduğunu söyledi.

Suriye Devlet Başkanı Beşşar Esad'ın meşruiyetini kaybettiğini savunan Westerwelle, Fransa'nın, Suriye'de bir insani yardım koridorunun açılması ve böyle bir koridorun uçuş yasağıyla korunması şeklindeki önerisine ise sıcak bakmadığını ifade etti.

Westerwelle, askeri seçeneklerin Suriye'nin çevresindeki ülkeler tarafından reddedildiğine de dikkati çekti.

Suriye'de "insani yardım koridoru" kurulması önerisinde bulunan Fransa Dışişleri Bakanı Alain Juppe, bunun için rejimle anlaşmanın ve uluslararası görevlendirme gibi bazı koşulları yerine getirmenin gerekli olduğunu söyledi.

FRANSA YARDIM KORİDORU ÖNERDİ

Juppe, muhalif Suriye Ulusal Konseyi (SUK) lideri Burhan Galyun'la dün yaptığı görüşmenin ardından bugün France Inter radyosuna konuştu.

Libya'da Kızılhaç'ın tıbbi malzeme ulaştırmak için yaptığı gibi bir koridorun Suriye'de de uygulanabileceğini belirten Juppe, "Bunun için iki muhtemel koşul değerlendirilebilir, birincisi uluslararası camia, BM, Arap Birliği rejimden insani yardım koridorları için onay alabilir ve bu daha önce yapıldı. Eğer bu olmazsa başka çözümler bulunabilir. İnsani yardım konvoylarının askeri olarak korunması mümkün, ama şimdilik bu durumda değiliz. Bu koruma daha önce Libya'da uluslararası gözlemcilerle yapıldı" dedi.

RASTAN'DA SİĞİNAKLAR BOMBALANDI

Suriye tankları ise, ülkenin orta kesimlerindeki Rastan kenti yakınında ordudan ayrılan askerlerin sığınaklarını

bombalandı. Aktivistler, 50 dolayında tank ve zırhlı araçtan, Humus'un 20 kilometre uzağındaki Rastan'ın dış kesimlerinde bulunan bir çiftlik arazisine makineli silahlar ve uçaksavar silahlarıyla ateş açıldığını belirtti.

Suriye İnsan Hakları İzleme Örgütü, ülkenin orta kesimlerinde 11 güvenlik görevlisi ve askerin Suriye ordusundan ayrılan askerlerce öldürüldüğünü iddia etti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25300023/>

- **Arab and International Figures Renounce AI Decision against Syria, Reject Foreign Interference**

Lebanese Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, stressed that Lebanon rejects any Arab League decision to isolate Syria or any other Arab state, stressing that Lebanon does not interfere in Syria's internal affairs.

A Tunisian delegation, currently visiting Syria, has stressed solidarity with the people and leadership of Syria in face of the aggression against it, considering the Arab League decision as "incorrect and harmful" because it paves the way for

foreign interference, and it does not serve the interests of the Arab Nation.

In an interview with the Syrian TV, the delegation said it is unacceptable that the Arab League imposes economic sanctions against the Syrian people and leadership who have been leading the whole nation for several years to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

In the same context, a Russian student delegation stressed that what is going on in Syria is a foreign conspiracy backed with a media misleading campaign.

The delegation, currently visiting Lattakia city, said they will relay the reality of what they saw on the ground to the public opinion.

For their part, Egyptian journalists Ilhami al-Maliji and Abdo Maghribi stressed that Syria is being targeted by western and regional powers because it is the only resistant country against the western plots.

The Egyptian Unity Party staged a solidarity stand outside the Syrian

Embassy in Cairo and waved the Syrian flags and placards supporting Syria.

The Party stressed that the Arab League decision is an implementation of western and US agendas that aim at dismembering the Arab region and liquidating all strengths of the nation.

For his part, the Chinese Ambassador in Lebanon Wu Zexian reiterated his country's stance against foreign interference in the internal affairs of countries, adding that China believes that the international community's interference should be only through peaceful solution and dialogue.

Meanwhile, Russian researcher Vladimir Asiev, from the Moscow-based Russian Science Academy, described the Arab League decision against Syria as "very dangerous", adding that it will reflect negatively even on the states which voted for it.

In an interview with SANA correspondent in Moscow, Asiev criticized the opposition's armed attacks against civilians and army members in Syria.

Furthermore, the Jordanian Government Spokesperson, Rakan al-Majali, affirmed that weapon smuggling operations from Jordan into Syria took place, adding that the Jordanian Government is working to stop them.

<http://sana.sy/eng/22/2011/11/25/384079.htm>

- **Syria faces looming sanctions deadline**

Government has only hours to sign an Arab League protocol allowing rights monitors into the country or face sanctions.



Arab ministers would meet on Sunday to review the proposed sanctions if Syria does not sign the protocol [Reuters]

The Arab League has given Syria until 11:00 GMT on Friday to sign a protocol allowing rights monitors into the country before it press ahead with plans to impose

economic sanctions, according to Egypt's envoy to the regional bloc.

The sanctions could include a suspension of commercial flights to Syria and a halt to dealings with its central bank, Afifi Abdel Wahab said in Cairo on Thursday.

"Tomorrow [Friday] is the deadline for Syria to sign. If they don't sign, the economic and social council [of ministers] will meet on Saturday to discuss economic sanctions," he said.

Abdel Wahab said that if Syria did not sign, foreign ministers would meet again on Sunday to review the proposed sanctions.

His comments came after members of the Arab League convened in Cairo to discuss the escalating crisis in Syria in the wake of President Bashar al-Assad's refusal to end his crackdown on anti-government protesters.

Last week, Walid al-Muallem, the Syrian foreign minister, said the planned mission placed "impossible conditions" and gave the 500-member monitors' team too

much authority that infringed on Syria's sovereignty.

In the run-up to Thursday's meeting, Lebanon said it would not endorse any potential sanctions against Syria.

"Lebanon will not endorse any sanctions by the Arab League against Syria," Adnan Mansur, the Lebanese foreign minister, told a local radio.

"We will decide whether to vote against or abstain depending on the talks in Cairo."

More deaths reported

Protesters have been rallying against Assad's one-party rule since March, braving the much-criticised security crackdown.

Activists reported that at least 28 people were killed by security forces across Syria on Thursday.

Of the dead, 26 people were killed in the central city of Homs, one in the central city of Hama, and one in the southern province of Daraa, according to the Local

Co-ordination Committees activist network.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said heavy machine gun fire blasted the city of Rastan following a one-hour clash early on Thursday between soldiers and army defectors.

The UN says more than 3,500 people, most of them civilians, have been killed since the start of the uprising.

Members of the Syrian opposition have been meeting world leaders, urging further action against Assad's government.

Alain Juppe, the French foreign minister, met leaders of the opposition Syrian National Council on Wednesday, describing the exiled group as "the legitimate partner with which we want to work".

Juppe said France would also seek EU backing for humanitarian corridors in Syria "to alleviate the suffering of the population".

However, he ruled out the possibility of military intervention to create a "buffer zone" in the north of the country.

UN condemnation

International pressure has been mounting on Syria, with the UN General Assembly's Human Rights Committee condemning the crackdown in a vote on Tuesday.

The resolution, drafted by Britain, France and Germany, received 122 votes in favour, 13 against and 41 abstentions.

Arab states that voted for it included co-sponsors Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, as well as Egypt.

Russia and China, which vetoed a European-drafted resolution that would have condemned Syria in the UN Security Council last month, abstained.

Bashar Jaafari, the Syrian ambassador to the UN, said the resolution had no meaning for his country and portrayed it as a US-inspired political move.

"Despite the fact that the draft resolution was basically presented by three European states, however it is no secret that the United States of America is ... the main mind behind the political campaign against my country," he said.

"This draft resolution has no relevance to human rights, other than it is part of an adversarial American policy against my country."

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/20111124145558173470.html>

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

• Yemen'de 5 Kişi Öldürüldü



Foto: AP

Yemen Devlet Başkanı Ali Abdullah Salih, başkent Sanaa'da çıkan şiddet olaylarıyla ilgili soruşturma açılmasını emretti.

Görgütanıklarına göre Salih yandaşları, Perşembe günü yönetim devri anlaşmasını protesto eden göstericilere ateş açarak beş kişiyi öldürdü. Göstericiler anlaşmanın Salih'e yargı dokunulmazlığı tanıyan maddesini protesto ediyordu.

Resmi haber ajansı SABA'ya göre Salih ölüm olayını kınadı ve Yemen'de barışa karşı çıkan kuvvetler ve yabancı unsurları sorumlu tuttu.

Çarşamba günü Salih ve muhalefet liderleri Yemen devlet başkanının yönetimi yardımcısı Abd-Rubbu Mansur Hadi'ye devretmesini öngören anlaşmayı imzalamıştı.

Suudi devlet televizyonu Riyad'da düzenlenen törende Salih'i Suudi Arabistan Kral Abdullah ve Veliiaht Prens Neyef ile birlikte anlaşmayı imzalarken gösterdi.

Salih, Konsey'in sunduğu plan üzerinde geçmişte üç kez anlaşmış olduğunu duyurmuş, ancak daha sonra imzalamaktan vazgeçmişti.

Yemen'de göstericiler yaklaşık 10 aydır Devlet Başkanı Ali Abdullah Salih'in

istifasını istiyor. Salih, 33 yıldır Yemen'i yönetiyor. Ancak ülke Salih karşıtları ve yandaşları arasında bölünmüş durumda. Hükümet aleyhtarı gösterilerle boğuşan Yemen, bir yandan da el Kaide'nin ülkenin güneyinde düzenlediği şiddet olaylarına hedef oluyor

<http://www.voanews.com/turkish/news/Salih-Yonetim-Devri-Anlamasn-mzalad-134401118.html>

- **Clashes with police follow Bahrain funeral**

Police use tear gas against protesters after the funeral for a man allegedly killed by police on Wednesday.



Kadhem died on Wednesday, allegedly after being forced off the road by police [Gregg Carlstrom/Al Jazeera]

A'ali, Bahrain - The evening call to prayer in this village on Thursday was punctuated by the explosions of sound bombs fired by Bahraini police.

Tear gas canisters arced overhead as residents crouched on their rooftops and huddled in doorways, chanting allahu akhbar ("God is greatest") and yasqat Hamad ("down with Hamad"). "This is Bahrain now," one teenaged boy said, wearing a scarf over his face to shield his identity.

The violence began moments after the funeral of Abdulnabi Kadhem, a local man who was killed here yesterday, allegedly when police jeeps drove him off the road. Hundreds of protesters, some of them throwing stones and Molotov cocktails, marched from the cemetery to the main road, where a large group of police had been waiting all afternoon.

Police responded with a volley of tear gas that sent mourners and protesters alike fleeing into A'ali's back alleys. Many ducked into houses, where women offered vinegar and perfume to ease the sting of the gas.

"This is Bassiouni's tear gas," one woman shouted, between gasps of a perfume-drenched tissue.

She was referring to Cherif Bassiouni, the Egyptian judge who headed the official inquiry into this year's human-rights abuses in Bahrain.

The commission released its final report on Wednesday afternoon, handing a copy to King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in a ceremony at one of his palaces. It accused Bahraini security forces of numerous abuses: torture, wrongly killing unarmed protesters, arbitrary arrests, and more.

It recommended a number of reforms, including investigations into torture and human rights training for the police and army.

"These are his reforms," another woman said bitterly.

'Bassiouni says you are killers'

Several people collapsed from tear gas inhalation on Thursday afternoon, and residents said a number of people were arrested. Police could also be seen trying to break into at least one home to conduct a search.

Al Jazeera's Mohammed Vall reports from A'ali village

These sorts of small-scale clashes have become a routine part of life over the last few months in Bahrain. Police have effectively sealed off A'Ali and other villages, which prevents protesters from massing in one location, like they did in Manama's Pearl Roundabout earlier this year.

So they provoke the police stationed outside their villages, and the police inevitably respond, often with overwhelming force.

The actual funeral procession was peaceful: Thousands of people marched through the streets of A'Ali, chanting "Down with Hamad", "Leave, you murderer", and "The people demand the overthrow of the regime".

Kadhem died on Wednesday morning. Witnesses said the police, who often drive at high speed down the narrow streets of Bahrain's villages, drove Kadhem's car off the road and then collided with him.

Bahrain's interior ministry said Kadhem drove into a house, but the damage to his car, which was crumpled on the sides, was inconsistent with that statement.

Dozens of police jeeps had gathered outside A'Ali in the hours before the funeral, clearly anticipating a confrontation.

They tried to bar at least one foreign journalist from entering the village to cover the funeral.

"Bassiouni says you are torturers," one man shouted at the police through a loudspeaker.

'The report is no good'

There was mostly cynicism about Bassiouni's report, though, among the mourners in A'Ali on Thursday.

"The report is no good," Mohsen al-Ali said. "It should remove Khalifa from power. It should give us a chance to work in the police, in the army," an opportunity many Bahraini Shias believe they are denied because of official discrimination.

He was referring to Khalifa ibn Salman Al Khalifa, the prime minister and the king's uncle. He is also, by virtue of controlling Bahrain's security forces, a reviled figure among many members of the opposition.

Police used tear gas and sound bombs against protesters, several of whom were injured

Many people in A'Ali levelled similar criticisms at Bassiouni's report.

It went further than many people expected in documenting human-rights abuses, though it does not blame any senior government officials for authorising abuses; officers are often described as "acting independently" or against orders.

But none of the mourners thought the report would lead to political reforms, which the Bahraini opposition has demanded for years, in response to what they call systemic discrimination.

The opposition had hoped for a sweeping gesture or two from the king: a general amnesty, perhaps, or a cabinet reshuffle.

But the king made no such announcements, and 24 hours after the report's release, no ministers have been sacked.

"So the people who will implement this report are the same ones who committed these abuses?" Ali al-Sabah, a mourner, asked before the funeral.

Even the Wefaq party, Bahrain's largest opposition party, which is often very hesitant to criticise of the government, said there would be no political reconciliation until the cabinet was replaced.

"We don't have a yes or no response to the report. The good things in it we will take," Khalil al-Marzooq, a senior official with Al Wefaq, said on Thursday. "But we will not work or co-operate with the present government, and we demand for its resignation."

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/11/20111124183520601827.html>

- **Kuwait holds 24 over parliament storming: lawyer**

KUWAIT CITY, (AFP) — Kuwait on Thursday remanded in custody 24 opposition activists pending further investigation on charges they stormed the parliament building last week, their lawyer said.

"After interrogation all night, the public prosecutor this morning remanded them in police custody until Thursday night when questioning will resume," said Al-Humaidi al-Subaie, coordinator of the opposition defence team.

Hundreds of opposition activists stormed the sea-side assembly on November 16 after clashes with riot police that followed a large protest to demand the resignation of the prime minister and that parliament be dissolved.

Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, on Sunday called the incident a "black day" for the oil-rich Gulf state which has been witnessing heightened tension between the ruling family led government and opposition MPs.

The activists have been questioned on charges of damaging public property,

storming parliament, illegal procession, assaulting police and others for which they "face a jail term of between six months and a life term," Subaie told AFP.

Some of the activists were arrested on Wednesday while the rest handed themselves in while more plan to surrender Thursday, the lawyer said.

Subaie had said on Wednesday that the public prosecutor issued around 50 arrest warrants and more warrants were expected to be issued.

Riot police on Wednesday beat up with batons supporters and relatives of the activists who gathered outside a police headquarters east of the capital Kuwait City.

Dozens of supporters led by several opposition MPs spent the night outside the palace of justice in Kuwait City where questioning took place.

Opposition MP Mussallam al-Barrak announced at the gathering that the opposition will hold an emergency meeting Thursday to decide its next

course of action ahead of a planned anti-government rally on Monday.

MP Khaled al-Tahus said opposition activists plan to camp in a square opposite parliament for at least two days starting Sunday to press for a change of government.

The emirate's opposition launched the campaign aiming to change the prime minister and dissolve parliament following an alleged corruption scandal involving around 15 MPs.

The opposition has also accused Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, a senior member of the ruling family, of transferring public funds into his overseas bank accounts. The government has denied the charge.

OPEC member Kuwait sits on about 10 percent of the global crude oil reserves and currently pumps around 3.0 million barrels per day.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27422>

8. AFGHANISTAN - PAKISTAN / AFGANİSTAN - PAKİSTAN

- **Deadly attack on NATO convoy in Afghanistan**

Taliban fighters target a NATO logistics convoy in western Farah province, killing 10 private security guards.



Taliban fighters have attacked a NATO convoy in western Afghanistan, killing at least 10 private security guards and injuring several, officials said.

A government spokesman told Al Jazeera that the NATO logistics convoy came under attack in Farah province's Bakwa district on Thursday. At least ten vehicles were set on fire.

In July, 31 workers from a demining agency were abducted in Bakwa, six of whom were killed and the rest released.

The attacks come as Afghanistan prepares to assume security control ahead of the

2014 withdrawal date for the US-led NATO combat troops.

In the first round of "security transition", seven areas have been handed over to Afghan forces already.

Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, is expected to announce 17 other provinces as part of the the second phase.

'Civilians killed'

Meanwhile, Karzai accused NATO-led international forces of killing up to seven civilians, most of them children, in an air strike in the south of the country late on Wednesday.

The incident happened in Zhari district of Kandahar province, a traditional Taliban stronghold where NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops claim significant progress in recent months.

The Kandahar governor's office said that the air strike was aimed against armed men who were planting mines, but they then fled into a village, where ISAF forces pursued them and struck.

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Kabul said he was aware of reports of civilian casualties in Kandahar, adding that a joint assessment team was going to the site.

The issue of civilian casualties in air strikes is highly sensitive in Afghanistan and has fuelled tensions between Karzai and his Western backers.

Karzai's office issued a statement saying he "strongly condemned" the strike, which it said killed seven people including six children, as well as injuring two young girls. The president has also tasked a team with investigating the incident.

The governor of Zhari district Niaz Mohammad Sarhadi said that the strike was aimed at Taliban fighters planting roadside mines in the area but missed its target and hit residential areas nearby.

But the governor's office in Kandahar gave a slightly different explanation.

It said that two insurgents had been killed in an air strike, "while the three remaining

fled and hid themselves among civilian houses".

It added: "The ISAF aircrafts pursued the three remaining insurgents and dropped bombs on a road where they were hiding but as a result, six children were killed and three others were injured."

ISAF commanders say the Taliban and other armed groups frequently hide among the local population in a bid to protect themselves. However, ISAF forces are supposed to take all possible steps to avoid civilian casualties.

The US general who commands ISAF troops in Afghanistan, General John Allen, wrote in July that he expected "every member of ISAF to be seized with the intent to eliminate civilian casualties caused by ISAF".

Kandahar police chief General Abdul Raziq said three Taliban had died out of a total death toll of nine, while investigations were continuing to ascertain the identity of the others.

Earlier this month, Afghan elders held a loya jirga or traditional meeting to discuss

a strategic partnership deal with the US which will govern Kabul's relations with Washington after 2014.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2011/11/20111124113633159340.html>

- **Pakistan appoints new US ambassador**

Sherry Rahman, a ruling party veteran and former minister, replaces Husain Haqqani who resigned after memo controversy.

Rahman becomes the ambassador to Washington at a time when US-Pakistan relations are strained [Reuters]

Pakistan has appointed a former information minister and human rights campaigner as its ambassador to Washington.

Sherry Rahman replaces Husain Haqqani who resigned on Tuesday over claims that he drafted a memo on behalf of President Asif Ali Zardari, seeking US help against his country's military.

Rahman is a veteran member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and a staunch ally of Zardari.

Al Jazeera's Imtiaz Tyab, reporting from Islamabad, said: "It's an interesting appointment. She has been very vocal and had become unpopular, but Sherry Rahman will be welcomed by the United States."

Rahman was a prominent journalist in Pakistan before she was made information minister by Zardari after the restoration of civilian rule following elections in 2008.

As the author of a report on Pakistan's foreign-policy goals in Afghanistan, Rahman has promulgated views widely seen as in agreement with the conservative military establishment.

On the other hand, as a social liberal she has been a strong advocate of women's and minority rights and faced death threats for her calls to reform the country's blasphemy laws.

"I think the appointment is very significant because it follows a major controversy over the memo and also because the relationship between the two countries is crucial," Nasim Zehra, the director of current affairs at Dunya TV, told Al Jazeera.

Rahman resigned in March 2009 over disagreements with Zardari on imposing media restrictions.

Haqqani resigned after a Pakistani-American businessman accused him of being behind a memo that said the military was plotting a coup and appealing to the Pentagon to help ward it off.

Summoned to Islamabad earlier this week, he denied any connection with the memo and offered to resign after meeting the president and military chiefs.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2011/11/20111123111213283701.html>

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**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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