



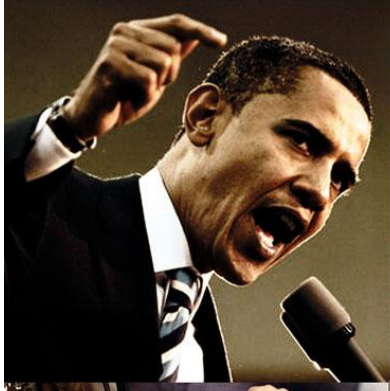
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CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ

MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

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GÜNLÜK ORTADOĞU BÜLTENİ
05 DECEMBER / ARALIK 2011
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1. IRAQ / IRAK

• Kerkük'te Yaralanan 11 Kişi Tedavi Edilmek Üzere Türkiye'ye Götürüldü

Irak'ın kuzeyindeki Kerkük şehrinde çeşitli tarihlerde meydana gelen saldırılarında yaralanan 11 kişi, tedavisi yapılmak üzere Türkiye'den gelen ambulans uçakla Ankara'ya götürüldü.



Irak'ın kuzeyindeki Kerkük şehrinde çeşitli tarihlerde meydana gelen saldırılarında yaralanan 11 kişi, tedavisi yapılmak üzere Türkiye'den gelen ambulans uçakla Ankara'ya götürüldü.

Yaralılardan 1'i kadın, 2'i çocuk 3 vatandaş ile 5 polisten oluşan toplam 11 yaralı ile 11 refakatçi bugün Türkiye'de tedavileri yapılmak üzere Kerkük Havaalanı'na getirildi. Irak ordusunun yoğun güvenlik önlemleri altında yapılan sorunsuz yaralı taşıma işinden sonra Musul Türkiye

Başkonsolosluğu ile Kerkük Valiliği ortaklaşa organizesi ile yaralılar, hava alanında bekletilen sağlık görevlileri nezaretinde ambulans uçak olarak teçhiz edilen C-130 tipi nakliye uçağına bindirildi.

Ambulans uçakta bulunan Türk acil sağlık görevlileri tarafından son bir kez daha kontrolden geçen yaralılar, özenle ambulans uçağına yerleştirildi. Ardından, 11 yaralı ile 11 refakatçiyi alan ambulans uçak Ankara'ya doğru hareket etti.

Yaralılardan Şahin İhsan, Türkiye her zaman yanlarında olduklarından dolayı minnet duyduğunu ifade ederek kendisini tedavi etmek için Türkiye'ye götürüldüğünü söyledi.

Kerkük Türkmen İl Meclis Üyesi Ali Mehdi, her zaman Türkmenler olarak hedefte olduklarını ifade ederek, "Irak'ta kimse sesimizi duymuyor. Türkiye'ye sesleniyoruz, artık dayanacak gücümüz kalmadı. Yaralılar Türkiye götürülmesi memnuniyetle karşılıyoruz." dedi.

<http://www.haberler.com/kerkuk-te-yaralanan-11-kisi-tedavi-edilmek-uzere-3167830-haberi/>

- **Maliki: Esad ölürse iç savaş çıkar**

Suriye yönetimine yakınlığı ile bilinen Irak Başbakanı Maliki, Esad'ın öldürülmesi veya uzaklaştırılması durumunda Suriye'de iç savaş çıkacağı uyarısını yaptı



Amerikan Associated Press ajansına bir mülakat veren Irak Başbakanı Nuri el Maliki, Suriye konusunda değerlendirmelerde bulundu. Suriye Devlet Başkanı Beşar Esad'ın öldürülmesi veya iktidardan uzaklaştırılması durumunda, Suriye'de bir iç savaşın patlak vereceğini iddia eden Maliki, Suriye'nin içinde bulunduğu atmosferi “çok tehlikeli” olarak niteledi. Maliki, “Esad rejimine karşı nasıl bir tavrın takınılacağı çok dikkatli bir şekilde ele alınmalı. Aksi takdirde Arap Baharı hızla kışa dönüşebilir” dedi. Suriye'de 16 yıldan fazla yaşadığını, halkı çok iyi tanıdığını kaydeden Nuri el Maliki, “Suriye halkının haklarının korunmasını istiyoruz. Bu nedenle Suriyeli muhaliflerle de görüşeceğiz. Ancak ben Beşar Esad'ın

görevi bırakması çağrısında bulunmayacağım. Çünkü Esad'ın öldürülmesi veya iktidardan uzaklaştırılması, bütün bölgeyi etkileyecek bir iç savaşa neden olacaktır. Ortadoğu iç savaşlardan çok çaktı, yeni bir tanesinin daha çıkması bölgemiz için felâket olur” ifadelerini kullandı. Öte yandan Esad'ın muhaliflere karşı kullandığı istihbarat teşkilatının en az 12 üyesinin dün erken saatlerde firar edip isyancılara katıldığı iddia edildi. Muhalif aktivistlere göre Türkiye sınırı yakınlarındaki İdlib bölgesindeki bir istihbarat üssünden ordudan firar edenler yardımıyla kaçan istihbarat elemanları, yakındaki Cebal El Zaviye bölgesine gitti. Kaçış sırasında iki taraftan 10 kişinin öldüğü belirtildi.

19 KİŞİYE YAPTIRIM GELDİ

Arap Birliği ile Suriye arasındaki 'protokol krizi' de devam ediyor. Arap Birliği'nin şiddeti durdurması için Esad yönetimine tanıdığı son süre dün dolarken, Şam'ın öne sürdüğü yeni şartların reddedildiği bildirildi. Birlik'in Dışişleri Bakanları'nın dün Doha'da yaptığı toplantıdan ise Esad yönetimine ilave yaptırım kararları çıktı. Aralarında Beşar Esad'ın kardeşi Mahir ve kuzeni Rami Mahluf'un da bulunduğu 19 üst düzey Suriyeli yetkiliye Arap ülkelerine

seyahat yasağı getirildi, bu isimlerin mal varlıkları da donduruldu.

Suriye'den Türkiye'ye ekonomik yaptırım Türkiye'nin Suriye yönelik yaptırım kararlarını açıklamasının ardından, Serbest Ticaret Anlaşması'nı askıya aldığını duyuran Esad yönetiminin, Türkiye ilgili yeni kararlar aldığı bildirildi. Suriye resmi haber ajansı SANA'nın haberine göre, dün Başbakan Adil Sefer başkanlığında toplanan Bakanlar Kurulu'nun kararlarına göre, Türkiye'den ithal edilen mallar uygulanmakta olan dış ticaret yasası kapsamına alınarak gümrük harçları tarifesi uygulanacak; ayrıca bütün Türk malı ürünler için ürün fiyatının yüzde 30'u değerinde gümrük harcı alınacak; Suriye'den Türkiye'ye giden tırlara 600, otobüslere 400, minibüslere 200 ve otomobillere de 50 litreden fazla mazot satılmayacak. Bakanlar Kurulu Genel Sekreteri Teysir Zubi, söz konusu kararların Türkiye'nin yaptırımlarına bir cevap olarak alındığını belirtti

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=7409>

- **'ABD olmadan da Irak'ta istikrar sağlanır'**

Irak Başbakanı Nuri El Maliki, ABD askerlerinin ülkeden ayrılmasından sonra

gelecekte istikrarın sağlanmasına ve bağımsız kalmaya inancının tam olduğunu söyledi. Maliki, ABD askerlerinin ayrılmasından sonra bile ülkesinin istikrarı sağlayacağına ve bağımsız kalacağına inandığını, Irak'ın gelecekte kendi politikalarını, İran'ın ya da herhangi başka bir ülkenin dikteleri ile değil, ulusal çıkarları doğrultusunda çizeceğini bildirdi.

Irak'ın herhangi bir ülkenin takipçisi olmadığını ve olmayacağını belirten Maliki, öte yandan geniş kültürel, ekonomik ve dini bağları bulunan İran ile iyi ilişkileri sürdürmek istediklerini ifade etti.

'ABD'YE MİNNETARIZ'

Irak Başbakanı, ABD askerlerinin kademeli olarak Irak'tan çekilmeleri sırasında güvenlik seviyesinde değişiklik yaşanmadığını çünkü güvenliğin esasen kendi ellerinde olduğunu belirterek, ABD'ye Saddam Hüseyin'i devirdiği için minnettar olduğunu da kaydetti.

Maliki öte yandan Irak'ta ABD askerlerinin ayrılmasından sonra şiddetin azalacağını, çünkü bu durumun, saldırıların temel nedenlerinden birinin ortadan kalkması anlamına geleceğini söyledi.

'SURIYE'DE İÇ SAVAŞ ÇIKABİLİR'

Nuri El Maliki, Suriye'deki gelişmelerle ilgili olarak İran'ın müttefiki Suriye'de Beşşar Esad'ın devrilmesi halinde iç savaş çıkabileceği uyarısında bulundu. Maliki, Suriye'deki durumun tehlikeli olduğunu ifade ederek, Suriye'deki baharın kısa dönüşmemesi için mevzuların uygun biçimde değerlendirilmesi gerektiğini kaydetti. Irak'ın Suriye halkının haklarının korunması gerektiğine inandığını ve hükümetinin, Suriye'deki rejime, ülkeyi yöneten tek parti ve tek mezhep döneminin zamanını doldurduğunu ilettiğini bildirdi.

Suriyeli muhaliflerin geçen günlerde Irak'a gelmek istediklerini, hükümetinin onlarla görüşeceğini belirten Maliki, kendisinin de 16 yılı aşkın bir süre Suriye'de yaşadığını hatırlatarak, Suriye Devlet Başkanı Beşşar Esad'ı öldürmenin veya devirmenin, herhangi bir şekilde iki grup arasında iç savaşın patlak vermesine yol açacağını, bunun bölge üzerinde etkisi olacağını kaydetti.

<http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=7380>

• **Türkmen Meselesi Avrupa Parlamentosu'nda**

Irak Milletvekili Hasan Özmen'in katılımıyla "2003' ten sonra Irak'ta Türkmenlerin Durumu" konusu, Avrupa Parlamentosu İnsan Hakları Komisyonu'nda ilk defa özel bir oturumla ele alınacak.

Özellikle son günlerde Türkmenlere yönelik terör saldırılarının artması ve ABD askerlerinin çekilmesinin ardından Türkmen Bölgelerindeki " güvenlik " konusunun nasıl sağlanacağı yönünde tedbirlerin alınması için yoğun çaba gösteren Irak Türkmen Cephesi'nin " Türkmenlerin Hakları " konusundaki uluslararası himaye sağlama girişimleri de sonuç verdi. 5 Aralık Pazartesi günü Avrupa Birliği'nin direkt seçimle göreve gelen tek organı olan Avrupa Parlamentosu'nun İnsan Hakları Komisyonu'nda " 2003' ten sonra Irak'ta Türkmenlerin Durumu " konusu ilk defa ele alınacak. Oturuma Irak Milletvekili Hasan Özmen katılacak. Komisyonda, Türkmenlerin maruz kaldıkları " İnsan Hakları İhlalleri " konusu masaya yatırılacak. Özellikle Türkmenler nasıl korunacak ve Türkmenlerin haklarının geri kazanılması

konularında ne gibi çözümler üretilebileceği üzerine konuşulacak <http://www.kerkuk.net/?p=7343>

- **Arsons spread across Kurdistan region**

The attacks against liquor stores and massage parlors that started in Zakho, in Duhok Governorate near the Turkish border, on Friday are spreading across the Kurdistan Region. Another parlor was set on fire late Sunday evening, this time in Sulaimaniyah, near the Iranian border.

The massage center in Sulaimaniyah's Maliki Mahmoud Street was set on fire at around 11 p.m. local time (8 p.m. GMT) by unidentified protesters, who smashed the windows and threw bottles with gasoline into the house. The building burnt down, no one has been reported injured.

Sulaimaniyah Mayor Zana Hamasalih said the incident was plotted by "saboteurs" who want to destabilize Sulaimaniyah, a large and secular city in the east of the Kurdistan Region.

According to Hamasalih, it was not the first attack on the parlor. "A few days ago, some people threw stones at the center.

Investigation into the incident is ongoing and once we have found the people who are responsible, we will bring most severe legal punishment on them."

Three days ago, after Friday prayers, dozens of rioters burnt down more than 30 liquor stores, four massage centers and three hotels in Zakho. Reports say at least 32 people were injured. Rioters were allegedly encouraged by a Muslim preacher, Ismael Osman of Zakho's Rasheed Mosque, who reportedly has ties to the opposition group Kurdistan Islamic Union. Although KIU, which is inspired by the controversial Muslim Brotherhood, denied having any "preachers to be exploited as the instigators of the events", counter-rioters set the KIU headquarters in Zakho on fire.

The arsons continued yesterday in Duhok Governorate, when 20 to 30 young men set fire to four alcohol stores in Deraluk town and broke into a number of other stores to smash liquor bottles at around 8 p.m. local time (5 p.m. GMT). Police rushed to the scene, arresting four people for arson.

On Saturday, government officials still claimed that the arsons in Zakho were local incidents and that it was unlikely they would spread to other cities. Erbil Governor Nawzad Hadi said he had no fear that the events in Zakho would be repeated in Erbil. "The situation in Erbil, from all respects, is stable," he said. Earlier, Erbil police chief Abdul Khaliq Talaat shared the governor's view. "Since we do not feel any fear about such events happening in Erbil province, we have not taken any measures and have not put any force on alert," he said.

Only hours later, these statements were proven wrong, when police chief Talaat announced that police prevented KIU from holding a gathering. Talaat said the measures were "only to maintain security and stability in the city."

Eyewitnesses had already reported that late Friday evening, armed security forces took up position in Erbil's Christian neighborhood of Ainkawa, where the city's liquor stores, bars and nightclubs are placed. According to one witness, four pickup trucks each with up to ten armed men were rushing into Ainkawa at about 10 pm on Friday evening.

The riots have widened the gap between ruling and opposition parties in the Kurdistan region. The Kurdistan Regional Government, run by the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, quickly blamed an imam with ties to the oppositional KIU. Salahaddin Mohammed Bahaddin, head of KIU, claimed that the cleric was "a KDP man".

Observers believe that there could be more about Friday's events than just sectarian tensions between conservative Muslims and alcohol-consuming Christians. Iraq and the Kurdistan Region did not play a role in the Arab Spring, both have not seen protests like in neighboring Syria. However, there have been smaller protests in February, calling for reforms and demanding KDP and PUK losing their grip on power.

Despite the fact that the Kurdistan Region appeared to be "the better Iraq" -- the autonomous region enjoys foreign investment, economic growth and a stable security situation -- many Kurds demand a greater share of the region's wealth. The events in Zakho might be linked to frustrations over public services and the

perceived shortcomings of the Kurdistan Regional Government, the KRG.

It is difficult for media outlets to receive information from Zakho these days, since journalists can not work freely. "In 48 hours, 6 media offices have been torched, 6 journalists have been put in jail and 16 more journalists have been subjected to attacks," Metro Centre, a press freedom organization, said in a statement.

Metro condemns the torching of the media offices and the detention of journalists calling on the authorities to bring those responsible for incidents to justice. All the six media offices set on fire, and cited by the Metro statement, belonged to the KIU.

Also in Sulaimaniyah journalists complained that they were denied access to the site. Kamal Nouri, a correspondent for the Iran-based Kurdish Sahar TV said, "We were blocked by the security forces, attacked and then our camera and equipment were confiscated."

<http://aknews.com/en/aknews/3/276289>

- **Oil fields on Iraqi-Kuwaiti border await demarcation**

There are 10 oil fields that spread across the Iraqi-Kuwaiti frontier that are waiting to have a line drawn through them, the Oil and Energy committee in the Council of Representatives announced Sunday.

Committee member Furat al-Sharei told AKnews that the oil will be extracted from these fields after finding joint mechanisms between the countries. There are also ten common with Iran that are waiting the demarcation process to begin extraction.

"The problem of the common fields can be resolved by developing legal mechanisms."

The Kuwaiti government denied trespassing on joint oil fields with Iraq last July, accusing unnamed parties of trying to destabilize relations between the two countries.

The Iraqi government pays 5% of its revenue to compensate its debt to Kuwait that reaches \$22 billion USD (23,000 billion IQD).

The relations between Baghdad and Kuwait witnessed significant improvement

in the past few years. Kuwait re-opened its embassy in Iraq in 2008 after nearly 19 years of broken diplomatic relations between the two countries, while the Consulate of Iraq was opened in Kuwait in 2010.

The former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and sanctions were imposed on Iraq by the international community as a result. Iraq was put under Chapter VII, which makes it a country that threatens global security.

Although both countries have opened embassies in the other state, the outstanding problems between them are still present and they lead to periodic tensions in the relationship.

<http://aknews.com/en/aknews/2/276179>

2. IRAN / İRAN

- **Salihi Almanya'ya gitti**

İran İslam Cumhuriyeti Dışişleri Bakanı Ali Ekber Salihi, Afganistan konusunda dünlenecek toplantıya katılmak üzere Almanya'ya gitti.



Salihi, Afganistan konusunda Almanya'nın Boon kentinde düzenlenecek 2. Afganistan konferansına katılmak üzere bu sabah Tahran'ı Almanya'ya doğru terk etti.

Bu toplantıda konuşma yapacak olan Salihi, İran İslam Cumhuriyeti'nin Afganistan meselesine yönelik tutumunu açıklayacaktır.

<http://www2.irna.ir/tr/news/view/line-119/1112055089120258.htm>

- **İran, ABD'nin casus uçağını düşürdü**

İran İslam Cumhuriyeti Silahlı Kuvvetleri, İran'ın doğu bölgelerinde, Amerika'ya ait insansız casus uçağını düşürdü.



Bir askeri yetkili yaptığı açıklamada, İran İslam Cumhuriyeti Silahlı Kuvvetleri Hava

Savunma ve Elektronik Savaş Birimleri tarafından Amerika'ya ait RQ-170 tipi bir insansız casus uçağının ülkenin doğusunda düşürüldüğünü açıkladığı belirtildi.

Söz konusu yetkili açıklamasında, hava savunma ve elektronik savaş birimlerinin, ABD casus uçağının İran hava sahasını ihlal ettiği belirtti.

<http://www2.irna.ir/tr/news/view/line-120/1112052562120539.htm>

- **'Any P5+1 talks must fit Iran's package'**

MP Alaeddin Boroujerdi, the chairman of the Iranian Majlis (parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Committee



A senior Iranian lawmaker says Iran has submitted its proposed package for the resumption of multifaceted talks with the P5+1 countries and that any new negotiations must take place within the framework of the package.

Iran has presented its package a while ago based on the existing realities on the global scene, declaring its readiness to resume negotiations based on “recognized international principles,” said Chairman of Iran's Majlis Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Alaeddin Boroujerdi, quoted in a Sunday report by the legislature's official news agency, ICANA.

The senior lawmaker further reiterated that Iran will never give in to intimidating and threatening language in its international interactions.

“[The European Union's foreign policy chief] Ms. Catherine Ashton should have learned the appropriate tone to use in negotiating with Iran by now. Thus, she had better adjust her discourse, negotiations and remarks concerning Iran on the basis of such [international] norms,” he added.

Any interaction between Iran with [other] countries of the world is conducted based on the globally-recognized principles of mutual respect and interests, Boroujerdi emphasized.

On October 21, Ashton voiced the willingness of the P5+1 group (Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States plus Germany) to resume talks with Tehran to achieve a “comprehensive and negotiated” solution to the country's nuclear case.

In a letter addressed to the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Saeed Jalili, Ashton said if Iran was ready to discuss concrete confidence-building measures without preconditions, the P5+1 “would be willing to agree on a next meeting within the coming weeks at a mutually convenient venue.”

Ashton's letter came in response to an earlier communication by Jalili in September, in which he informed Ashton of Iran's readiness to resume multifaceted negotiations with the P5+1.

"I welcome your suggestion to resume talks, in order to take fundamental steps for sustainable cooperation," Ashton said in her letter.

Iran and the P5+1 powers held two rounds of multifaceted talks in Geneva in

December 2010 and in the Turkish city of Istanbul last January.

Tehran says it is ready to continue the talks based on common grounds, adding, however, that it has no intention of giving up any of its nuclear rights.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/213887.html>

- **Iran, Germany call for closer ties**

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi (L) met German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle in Bonn on December 4.



Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi and his German counterpart Guido Westerwelle have called for closer relations between the two countries.

Salehi and Westerwelle held a meeting on the eve of the second International Bonn Conference on Afghanistan, which is scheduled to begin on December 5, IRNA reported.

They discussed the latest global developments and exchanged views on ways to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The German foreign minister highlighted the role of Iran in Afghanistan, stressing the necessity of Iran's cooperation in Afghanistan's stabilization process.

Delegates from 90 countries as well as representatives of the United Nations will be attending the international conference, which has been organized to devise a strategy to stabilize Afghanistan.

The security situation remains fragile in Afghanistan, despite the presence of nearly 150,000 US-led foreign forces in the Central Asian country.

During the Bonn conference, Salehi will elaborate on Iran's views and stances in regard to the situation in Afghanistan.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/213863.html>

- **'Iran sanctions, double-edged sword'**

Member of Iran Majlis (parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Committee says the European Union's

unilateral sanctions against Iran are like a double-edged sword, which harm the European countries more than Iran.

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh went on to say that Iran has never welcomed sanctions, but is never defenseless against them, Fars News Agency quoted him as saying on Sunday.

“No country in the world has suffered sanctions more than Iran and we have always tried to render all sanctions ineffective,” he added.

The lawmaker further stated that sanctions not only increase costs in Iran but also affect the European sides and their companies.

“From 1995 up to the time that the Americans and the Europeans introduced new round of [anti-Iranian] sanctions in unison, the American companies... have complained about the US government limiting their possibilities compared to the European companies,” he said.

Falahatpisheh added that recent sanctions imposed by the European countries will also cause the European companies to

suffer the most and that they will be facing problems due to the sanctions.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has always tried to predict these sanctions and counteract them,” he said.

The lawmaker said that Iran is now under the most severe banking sanctions, adding that the country has not been transacting with the US dollar for the past three years and has also discarded euro in trade exchanges for about two years.

“The lion's share of the country's [financial] resources has been converted to gold and other foreign currencies which are not vulnerable to sanctions,” he said.

Foreign ministers of the European Union (EU) met on Thursday, December 1, to impose new sanctions against 180 Iranian individuals and companies, but failed to impose an embargo on the country's oil sector.

Earlier in November, the United States, Britain and Canada had imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran's energy and financial sectors after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released its report

on Tehran's nuclear program on November 8, which claimed Iran's nuclear program had a military aspect.

The US, Israel and their allies accuse Iran of pursuing a military nuclear program and have used this allegation as a pretext to convince the UN Security Council to impose four rounds of sanctions on the country.

Tehran has categorically refuted Western allegations, saying that as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it has the right to acquire and develop atomic technology for peaceful purposes.

Iranian officials have repeatedly described the sanctions against the Islamic Republic as futile and ineffective.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/213834.html>

- **Iranian, Tajik FMs meet in Bonn**

Berlin, Dec 5, IRNA – Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi met with his Tajik counterpart, Hamrokhon Zarifi on the sidelines of International Afghanistan Conference in the German city of Bonn on Sunday.

The two foreign ministers discussed the latest issues in bilateral relations and exploring the ways for expediting implementation of mutual agreements, as well as executing new projects.

Salehi and Zarifi also exchanged views on the latest developments in the Middle East, issues of Muslim countries, particularly Afghanistan and multilateral and regional cooperation.

Referring to the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran for expansion of relations with neighboring countries, Salehi said that Iran is ready to cooperate with the neighboring countries in the field of transfer of water, electricity, energy, road and railway transportation, and transit of goods.

He noted that trilateral cooperation between Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan is beneficial for the three nations and also the region.

Tajik Foreign Minister Hamrokhon Zarifi expressed his satisfaction over bilateral economic cooperation with Iran while saying that his country is interested in

expediting the joint projects, especially in the field of railway, transfer of energy, and development projects.

The two sides also discussed the developments in Afghanistan and satisfactory cultural relations between Tehran and Dushanbe.

Foreign Minister Salehi arrived in the German city of Bonn on Sunday evening to attend the International Conference on Afghanistan which will open on Monday.

Representatives from 85 countries and 16 international organizations will participate in the conference.

Salehi will elaborate on the Islamic Republic of Iran's views and stances vis-à-vis developments of Afghanistan.

<http://www.irna.ir/ENNewsShow.aspx?NIID=30697971&SRCH=1>

- **Iran contributed to suppression of Syrian protests – SNC**

Istanbul, Asharq Al-Awsat – The Syrian National Council [SNC] has claimed that the Iranian regime has contributed to the suppression of Syrian protesters.

During a press conference held in Istanbul against the sidelines of the Arab – Turkish Media Forum on Thursday, SNC spokesman Ahmed Ramadan revealed that the Syrian opposition had informed Moscow and Beijing that they have the right to bet on the al-Assad regime, but any new Syrian government will take this into account should the al-Assad regime collapse.

Whilst Samir al-Nashar, who heads the Secretariat of the Damascus Declaration, said “if the US had continued to gamble on the Hosni Mubarak regime, then [US Secretary of State] Hillary Clinton would not have been able to appear in Tahrir Square.”

He also said “I believe that the Russians, based on certain statements issued here and there, are reviewing their position [on Syria], as are the Chinese.” Al-Nashar also revealed that the SNC has been in communication with Tehran, adding “we are not against dialogue with any party, and we respect Iran as a central power in the region, however before any dialogue can take place the Iranians must correct their position [on Syria], because they have contributed to the suppression of

the Syrian people by providing the Syrian regime with information, as well as logistical support.”

Al-Nashar claimed that “they [the Iranians] provided the Syrian regime with equipment to spy on the Syrian political activists, benefitting from their experience in suppressing the Green Revolution....whilst they also participated in the planning of field operations against peaceful [Syrian] activists, and we therefore cannot deal with Iran unless it corrects its position with regards to the Syrian revolution.”

He added “the [Syrian] regime has used warships to bomb Al-Raml refugee camp in Latakia...which is a measure that they did not even use in the October war [Yom Kippur War] against Israel.”

SNC Executive Committee member, Samir al-Nasher, also stressed that the Syrian opposition is not calling for military intervention in Syria, but rather would prefer to see the international community pressure the al-Assad regime.

He also claimed that the SNC had informed the Chinese that “you are

allowing the [al-Assad] regime to commit crimes” adding, “we want to delegitimize the al-Assad regime.”

Al-Nashar also revealed that the Syrian youth are chanting the slogan “I would rather die than be arrested” in light of the revelations regarding the treatment that Syrian political activists are receiving at the hands of the Syrian authorities. He also confirmed that the SNC is committed to seeing the end of the Bashar al-Assad regime, particularly because “he [al-Assad] was bequeathed power...he did not come to power via elections and he has no legitimacy, and if he continues his policies then he will face a fate similar to that of Gaddafi.”

For his part, SNC spokesman Ahmed Ramadan, responding to a question put to him by Asharq Al-Awsat on the threat previously made by the Syrian president that any intervention in Syria would set the Middle East on fire, said that “the statements made by al-Assad or his foreign minister Walid Mualllem disregarding the international community are extremely foolish.”

He also revealed that “the al-Assad regime-affiliated Shabiha [militia] issued 22 death threats to Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby to his telephone...when the Arab League issued its decision against the regime.” He added “they [the Syrians] do not respect anyone, the noose is tightening around them but still they imagine that they will be able to remain in power by way of their killing machine.”

As for the Arab and international pressure to oust the al-Assad regime, Ramadan said that some western states are not fully informed about everything that is happening in Syria. He said “I met with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu before his famous meeting with al-Assad, and I told him that this visit would end in failure, because those that they [the diplomats] are talking to are not in the street...he [Davutoglu] asked me to wait 5 days, but Turkey’s proposals did not receive any response from the Syrian regime.”

He added “the Turks do not want to preempt the Arab positions with regards to the Syrian revolution, and Turkey is convinced today that the al-Assad regime

is over...and they have burned their bridges with the Syrian regime.”

The SNC spokesman claimed that “the Syrian regime at home is losing on all levels, and cannot find anybody to defend it. The Syrian regime is truly isolated...and even the Iranians are not defending its policies. It has completely lost its legitimacy, and we are now working for the post-Assad period.”

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27561>

3. İSRAEL - PALESTİNE / İSRAİL – FİLİSTİN

- **ABD'li komutan bile İsrail'den emin değil**

ABD Genelkurmay Başkanı Martin Dempsey, İsrail'in İran'ın nükleer tesislerine olası bir saldırı başlatmadan önce ABD'ye haber vereceği konusunda emin olmadığını söyledi.



Dempsey, İran'ın nükleer faaliyetlerinin durdurulması konusunda ABD ve İsrail arasında görüş farklılıkları bulunduğunu da belirtti.

Uluslararası haber ajansı Reuters'a konuşan ABD Genelkurmay Başkanı Dempsey, "ABD, İran'ın nükleer faaliyetlerini durdurmak için en doğru yolun yaptırımlar ve diplomatik baskı olduğunu düşünüyor. Ancak İsrail'in bizimle aynı pozisyonda olduğu konusunda emin değilim" dedi.

BARAK: İRAN'A ŞU AN ASKERİ SALDIRI YOK
İsrail Savunma Bakanı Ehud Barak ise, İsrail'in "şu anda" İran'ın nükleer tesislerine bir saldırı düzenlemeyi düşünmediğini söyledi.

İsrail radyosuna konuşan Barak, "Şu anda harekete geçme niyetimiz yok, zorunlu olmadıkça savaşa girilmemeli" dedi.

İran'a karşı kabul edilecek taktikler konusunda ABD ile olası görüş ayrılıklarıyla ilgili soruya ise İsrail Savunma Bakanı Barak şu cevabı verdi: "İsrail'in bağımsız olduğunu bilmek gerekir. İsrail hükümeti, ordusu ve güvenlik servisleri İsrail'in varlığı ve güvenliğinin tek sorumlusu."

'İRAN'A HER ZARARI HOŞUMUZA GİDER'

Barak, İran'da yakın zamanda meydana gelen patlamalarla ilgili olarak da "havadan veya diğer yollar vasıtasıyla kaynaklanan ve İran'ın nükleer programını yavaşlatacak her şeyi hoş karşıladıklarını" söyledi.

İran'da geçen ay, başkent Tahran yakınlarındaki Devrim Muhafızları'na ait bir askeri üste patlama meydana gelmiş ve 17 muhafız yaşamını yitirmişti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25301997/>

- **İsrail, Rumların Akdeniz'deki Sözde Doğalgaz Haklarının Yüzde 30'unu Satın Aldı**

Rum hükümeti, İsraili Delek şirketinin; Noble Energy şirketinin Rum tarafının ilan ettiği münhasır ekonomik bölge (MEB) içerisinde bulunan 12. parselde sahip olduğu hakların yüzde 30'unu satın almasını onaylamaya karar verdi.

Rum gazetelerinden Alithia, "Delek Afrodit'e Giriyor" başlığıyla yayımladığı haberinde, Rum hükümetinin, Noble Energy şirketinin 12. parselde sahip olduğu hakların yüzde 30'unun İsraili Delek şirketi tarafından alımının da

içerisine dâhil edilmesi amacıyla; Noble ile imzaladığı sözleşmede değişiklik yapılması konusunda hareket ettiğini belirtti.

Gazete, Rum hükümetinin İsraili şirketin talebini bir süre gözden geçirdikten sonra Noble'nin de olur görüşünü alarak, Noble'nin 12. parseldeki haklarının yüzde 30'luk kısmının Delek tarafından satın alınmasını onaylamaya karar verdiğini aktardı.

Delek'in Noble'nin hisselerinin bir kısmını satın almakta olduğunu ancak Rum hükümeti karşısında bariz yükümlülükler üstlenmediğini yazan gazete, Delek şirketinin, yükümlülüklerle ilgili olarak; Afrodit'teki araştırma sondajını yapan Noble şirketi ile görüşmeye devam edeceğini belirtti.

Öte yandan, Rum İçişleri Bakanı Neoklis Silikiotis'in, bu kararla ilgili olarak gerek Delek şirketini, gerek de İsrail'in Güney Kıbrıs'taki büyükelçisi Mişel Hariri'yi bilgilendirdiğini belirten gazete, İsrail'in uzun süredir Delek şirketinin talebini ileriye götürdüğünün bilindiğini ekledi.

<http://www.haberler.com/israil-rumlarin-akdeniz-deki-sozde-dogalgaz-3167887-haberi/>

- **İsrail'de Tartışılan Danışman Mavi Marmara Raporunda**

Haaretz gazetesi, Marmara baskına ilişkin raporunu yakında açıklayacak İsrail devlet denetleyicisinin yürüttüğü soruşturma sırasında, Başbakan Netanyahu'nun askeri danışmanı General Locker'in, filo operasyonu öncesi ve sonrası Türkiye'nin Washington Büyükelçisi Namık Tan ile "direkt iletişim kanalı"nın bulunduğunu, Dışişleri ve Savunma Bakanlıklarının bilgisi dışında Tan'a bazı mesajlar ilettiğini ortaya çıktığını yazdı İsrail'de Başbakan Binyamin Netanyahu'nun çok güvendiği askeri danışmanı General Yohanan Locker'in, yeni Hava Kuvvetleri Komutanı olarak atanması olasılığı ortalığı karıştırırken Marmara baskına ilişkin raporunu yakında açıklayacak devlet denetleyicisinin yürüttüğü soruşturma sırasında, Locker'in, filo operasyonu öncesi ve sonrası Türkiye'nin Washington Büyükelçisi Namık Tan ile "direkt iletişim kanalı"nın bulunduğunun, Dışişleri Bakanlığı ve savunma kurumunun bilgisi dışında Tan'a bazı mesajlar ilettiği kaydedildi.

Haaretz gazetesi, İsrail'de yeni Hava Kuvvetleri Komutanı ataması meselesinin siyasi arenada "türbülans" yarattığını

belirtirken tartışmaların, adayları arasında adı geçen Yohanan Locker'in ile Başbakan Netanyahu arasındaki ilişkiye odaklandığını kaydetti. Haberde Netanyahu'nun, iki yıldır askeri danışmanı olan Locker'in, kısa bir süre içinde Başbakan'ın en yakın danışmanlarından biri haline geldiği, Başbakanın da Locker'e daha önce hiçbir askeri danışmaya fiilen verilen geniş yetkileri verdiği kaydedildi.

General Locker'in bazan da Netanyahu'nun Ulusal Güvenlik Danışmanı Uzi Arad'ı da atlattığını, askeri konuların dışında da birçok alanda rol aldığını belirten gazete, İsrail'de Başbakan'ın askeri danışmanının, Başbakan'ın, gizli istihbarat verileri ile ordunun, Mossad ve Shin Bet güvenlik örgütlerinin operasyonel faaliyetleri ile bağlantısını sağlayan kişi olduğuna dikkat çekti.

Haaretz, Locker'in siyasi konularda rol aldığını anlatırken de dokuz Türk'ün ölümüyle sonuçlanan geçen yıldaki Mavi Marmara gemisine baskına ilişkin raporu yakında açıklanacak olan devlet denetleyicisinin yürüttüğü soruşturma sırasında Locker'in girişimlerinin de ortaya çıktığına dikkat çekerken şunları yazdı:

"Devlet denetleyicisinin soruşturması sırasında filo öncesi ve sonraki dönemde Locker'in, Türkiye'nin ABD nezdindeki Büyükelçisi Namık Tan ile direkt bir iletişim kanalının bulunduğunu, ona da Uzi Arad, Dışişleri Bakanlığı ve savunma kurumunun bilgisi dışında bazı mesajlar ilettiği ortaya çıktı." - Ankara

<http://www.haberler.com/israil-de-tartisilan-danisman-mavi-marmara-3167656-haberi/>

- **Iran threatening to cut Hamas funds, arms supply if it flees Syria**

Palestinian sources tell Haaretz that Hamas is abandoning its headquarters in Syria and looking at other Arab states as alternative location for its political command center.

By Avi Issacharoff and Amos Harel

Iran had applied intense pressure to Hamas in an effort to persuade it not to leave Damascus, threatening even to cut off funds to the organization if it did so, Palestinian sources have told Haaretz.

The Iranian pressure also included an unprecedented ultimatum - namely, an explicit threat to stop supplying Hamas

with arms and suspend the training of its military activists.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Hamas political leader Khaled Meshal.

Photo by: AP

According to the sources, Hamas is abandoning its headquarters in Syria and looking at other Arab states as an alternative location for its political command center. Hamas' move comes despite intense Iranian pressure on the organization to refrain from relocating.

A Syrian opposition spokesman said recently that once Assad is toppled, his successors will have no intention of preserving the strategic alliance between Damascus, Tehran and Hezbollah.

According to the Palestinian sources, only "second and third-ranking" Hamas activists are leaving Damascus, while senior members of the organization's

political wing, headed by Khaled Meshal, are remaining in the Syrian capital.

Senior Hamas political figures even met this past weekend with representatives of the Palestinian factions that are not members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sources add.

The Hamas activists on the move, the sources say, are those responsible for the activities and funding of the organization's military wing, as well as some members of the political leadership. Most have left together with their families to a number of destinations, including Gaza, Sudan, Qatar and Lebanon.

The Palestinian sources have defined the relocation activities as a hasty abandonment of Syrian President Bashar Assad, who until recently was Hamas' strongest ally in the Arab world.

Efforts on the part of the Syrian and Iranian regimes to ascertain whether Hamas is indeed fleeing Damascus have been met with denials from the organization's leadership.

"Hamas has not made any new decision, and there has certainly not been a decision to leave Syria," a member of Hamas' political bureau, Salah Al-Arouri, told Haaretz, adding that if a family or two had left Syria, they had probably done so for personal reasons.

"The organization's top officials are here in Damascus; our relations with the state and Syrian people are excellent," Al-Arouri said. "We respect all Syrians whomever they are. We have no intention of interfering in Syria's internal affairs."

Nevertheless, in recent days, a number of Hamas officials, particularly among the leadership in Gaza, have called explicitly for the organization to distance itself from Damascus in light of the ongoing violence and bloodshed in Syria and the severe harm suffered by the country's civilians.

Haaretz has learned that Hamas has made a decision to abandon Damascus without letting the Syrian authorities know. The decision was made by the organization's senior leadership in the wake of the harsh criticism voiced against top Hamas officials in Gaza and abroad because of their ties with the Syrian regime.

This criticism, coupled with the ongoing violent suppression of the demonstrations in Syria and the reported killing there of more than 4,000 people, intensified the dilemma facing the Hamas leadership - to continue to stand by its Syrian patron, or to abandon the Syrian capital and thus make it clear that Hamas, considered a part of the Muslim Brotherhood, is distancing itself from Assad.

The Arab League's decision to suspend Syria from membership of the organization and impose economic sanctions on Damascus tipped the scales, with Hamas finally deciding to covertly evacuate all its activists from Syria and leave behind only the organization's highest-ranking officials so as to preserve a low profile of activity there. Among the Hamas officials who are still coming and going from Damascus are Mousa Abu Marzouq (Meshal's deputy), Izzat al-Rishq, Al-Arouri and Meshal himself.

Meanwhile, Syrian television yesterday aired pictures from a military exercise conducted on Saturday in the eastern part of the country. During the military drill, Syrian armed forces launched a Scud B

missile, with a range of some 300 kilometers. The broadcast also included pictures of the firing of rockets with ranges of 150-200 kilometers.

It appears the Syrians were looking to show the international community that Assad still has the ability to set the Middle East alight if he so chooses, particularly if the international community intervenes militarily.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/iran-threatening-to-cut-hamas-funds-arms-supply-if-it-flees-syria-1.399612>

- **Cast Lead criminal investigation still open 3 yrs on**

Col. Ilan Malka allegedly ordered an air-strike on a building he knew was occupied by civilians.

Three years after Operation Cast Lead, one last criminal investigation remains open against former Givati Brigade commander Col. Ilan Malka, whose military career is still engulfed in controversy and overshadowed by criminal allegations after the Military Advocate General's Office continues to drag its feet in ruling on the case.

Malka served as commander of the Givati Brigade during Operation Cast Lead, which was launched on December 27, 2008.

Former military advocate general (MAG) Maj.-Gen. Avichai Mandelblit – who retired earlier this year – decided to launch a criminal investigation against Malka in early 2010 over allegations that he ordered an airstrike on a building in Gaza despite allegedly knowing that it was occupied by civilians.

The bombing under question took place on January 5, 2009, during the ground offensive stage of the threeweek operation. Malka was operating in northern Gaza and called in an airstrike of a home in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood. The Air Force bombed the building resulting in the deaths of 21 members of the Samouni family.

The case was highlighted in the Goldstone Report which investigated alleged Israeli war crimes during the operation and Mandelblit decided to launch a Military Police investigation almost two years ago to rule out the possibility that Malka ordered the strike while knowing that civilians were inside the home.

Due to the investigation, Malka's promotion was put on hold and he has served as chief operations officer for the Central Command since. Other IDF officers who commanded brigades during the operation – such as then- Paratrooper's Brigade commander Hertzi Halevy and then-commander of the 401st Armored Brigade Yigal Slovik – have since been promoted to the rank of brigadier-general.

The IDF Spokesman's Office did not release an official response to inquiries from The Jerusalem Post about the status of the investigation against Malka.

Sources said that it was in its "final stages" and would be completed in the near future with a decision by Mandelblit's replacement Brig.-Gen.

Dani Efroni on whether charges will be brought against Malka.

Senior field commanders were critical of the MAG's office which they said was "dragging its feet" in concluding the investigation and enabling Malka to continue his career in the IDF.

“Two years is a long time for an investigation,” one senior IDF officer who is familiar with the case said recently. “If the MAG plans to press charges then he should do that now and if not, then Malka should be cleared of wrongdoing.”

<http://www.ipost.com/Defense/Article.aspx?id=248132>

- **Brotherhood addresses the West after elections success**

After a sweeping victory in the first phase of parliamentary elections last week, Egypt’s main Islamist movement is sending letters of assurance to Western nations declaring their commitment to democracy and their respect for religious freedoms.



In his first meeting with foreign officials, Mohamed Morsy, president of the Muslim Brotherhood’s Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), assured James Watt, the British ambassador to Egypt, that the FJP is

respectful of democratic values and religious freedoms. He added that the FJP feels that such rights must be included in the new constitution, scheduled to be drafted by the elected parliament.

“The new constitution must protect the rights of all Egyptians, irrespective of their beliefs, race or color,” he told the British diplomat.

The FJP led the poll in the first phase of elections last week, gaining 40 percent of the votes. The ultra-conservative Salafi Nour Party came in second, with 20 percent.

Broad victories by Islamists in Egypt followed similar trends in Tunisia and Morocco, where Islamists swept the polls. Secular forces in those countries fear that the success of the Islamists might lead to restrictions on personal and religious freedoms.

Watt told Morsy that Britain will deal with any elected Egyptian government so a long as it represents the will of the people. He also praised the first phase of the elections, calling them “the launch of democracy in Egypt.”

Egypt is home to the biggest religious minority in the Middle East, with Coptic Christians making up around 10 percent of the population. Many in the community are afraid that Islamic forces may seek to impose rigid Islamic laws in the country.

Essam al-Erian, the deputy head of the FJP, has confirmed in an interview with the Associated Press that his party will not seek to impose Islamic values on Egypt.

"We represent a moderate and fair party," Erian said of his Freedom and Justice Party. "We want to apply the basics of Sharia law in a fair way that respects human and personal rights," he said.

<http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/node/533446>

- **Israel asks future Egypt rulers to keep peace deal**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday called on Egypt's future rulers to preserve a peace treaty with Israel after Islamists took the lead in the Arab country's first round of elections.

"We hope any future government in Egypt will recognise the importance of keeping

the peace treaty with Israel in its own right and as a basis for regional security and economic stability," Netanyahu said in his first public comments on the issue since the Egyptian vote.

A first-round vote last week set Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood on course to take the most seats in the country's first freely elected parliament in six decades. The Salafi Nour Party, a more hardline Islamist group, is in second place, with a liberal bloc third.

The final outcome of the election will not be known until other parts of the country vote in two more rounds, a process that will not be complete until 11 January.

Israel has voiced concern that Muslim groups hostile to it could rise to power in the wake of "Arab Spring" revolutions that have toppled leaders in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen.

Egypt was the first Arab country to recognise Israel, signing a peace treaty in 1979 that secured Cairo billions in annual US aid and an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Sinai peninsula.

Sinai, which is demilitarized under the peace deal, has in recent years worried Israel as a gun-running conduit to Palestinian militants in the neighbouring Gaza Strip.

Security has frayed there further since veteran Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in February, prompting Israel to speed up construction of a security fence along its porous border with Egypt.

In August, eight Israelis were killed by militants who Israel said crossed into its territory from Sinai. Five Egyptian security guards were killed as Israeli soldiers pursued the gunmen.

Netanyahu said the fence, originally meant to keep out illegal African migrants, "today has security importance in light of growing instability in the Middle East" and that its construction would be sped up and completed within a year.

<http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/node/533591>

4. AFRICA and EGYPT / AFRİKA ve MISIR

• Müslüman Kardeşler Mahkemeye Gidiyor

Mısır'da seçimlerin ilk sonuçlarının açıklanması ile birlikte partiler arasında "dış yardım" tartışması başladı.



Mısır'da 30 yıllık Mübarek rejiminin ardından yapılan ilk demokratik ve özgür seçimlerin ilk aşamasının sonuçlarının açıklanması ile birlikte partiler arasında "dış yardım" tartışması başladı.

Bağımsız Yovm El Seba Gazetesi'nin haberine göre, Liberal Parti Lideri Necip Saviris'in seçimlerin ilk aşamanın galibi Müslüman Kardeşler'in Hürriyet ve Adalet Partisi ile ikincisi Selefî Nur Partisi hakkında ortaya attığı "ABD, Suudi Arabistan ve Katar'dan maddi yardım alıyorlar" şeklindeki iddiayı, Müslüman Kardeşler yargıya taşıyacak.

Gazeteye açıklamalarda bulunan Müslüman Kardeşler sözcülerinden Dr. Mahmud Gazlan, söz konusu iddiaların sadece iftiradan ibaret olduğunu söyleyerek, Saviris'i mahkemeye vereceklerini açıkladı.

Mısır'da 30 yıllık Mübarek rejiminin yıkılmasından sonra yapılan ilk özgür seçimlerde Müslüman Kardeşler'in kurduđu Hürriyet ve Adalet Partisi öncülüğündeki Demokratik İttifak, seçimlerin ilk aşamasında 9 milyon 734 bin 413 geçerli Oyun 3 milyon 565 bin 92'sini alarak yüzde 36,6'lık oy oranı ile birinci çıkmış, Selefiler'in Nur Partisi ise yüzde 24.4 alarak ikinci olmuştu.

Hristiyan işadamı Necip Saviris'i'n kurduđu Liberal Parti liderliğindeki Mısır İttifaki seçimlerin ilk aşamasında yüzde 13.4 oy alarak üçüncü sıraya yerleşmişti. - KAHİRE

<http://www.haberler.com/musluman-kardesler-mahkemeye-gidiyor-3168993-haberi/>

- **Tunus-Libya Sınırında Gerginlik**

Libya'da Kaddafi rejimini deviren silahlı güçlerden bazı kişilerin Tunus ile Libya arasındaki en büyük sınır kapısı olan Ras

Cedir'de Tunuslu gümrük görevlilerine saldırması sonucu iki ülke arasındaki sınır geçişleri neredeyse durdu.

Sınır kapısından Libyalıların Tunus'a geçişine izin verilmediği, yalnızca Tunus vatandaşlarının ülkelerine dönmesine imkan tanındığı bildirildi. Sınır kapısının Tunus tarafından ülkesine girmek isteyen bazı Libyalılara da izin verildiği belirtildi.

Libya'nın başkenti Trablus'a 180 kilometre uzaklıkta bulunan Ras Cedir sınır kapısında üç gün önce meydana gelen olayda, silahlı bir grup Libyalı gümrük alanına girerek Tunuslu görevlilere saldırmıştı. Olayda bir Tunuslu gümrük görevlisinin yaralandığı iddia edilmişti. Bu olaydan bir gün sonra bir başka sınır kapısı olan Dehiba'da da benzer bir olay yaşanmış, sınırın Libya tarafındaki Tunuslulara saldırılar olduğu bildirilmişti.

Olayın ardından sınır kapısındaki Tunuslu görevliler gösteri yaparak, bölgede sık sık bu tür saldırılara maruz kaldıklarını söyledi ve güvenliğin sağlanmasını talep etti. Bunun üzerine, Tunus, Libya'dan sınır bölgesindeki silahlı kişilerin kontrol alınmasını istedi. Tunuslu yetkililer, bu

kişilerin sınırdan 2 kilometre geri çekilmesini istiyor.

Tunus'un bu talebinin yarından itibaren uygulanacağı iddia edildi. Sınırdaki geçişlerin durdurulması nedeniyle kilometrelerce uzunlukta araç kuyrukları oluştuğu belirtiliyor.

Tunus-Libya arasındaki son olay, Libya'da Kaddafi rejimini deviren silahlı grupların kontrol altına alınamaması sorununu bir kez daha gündeme getirdi. Ülkedeki silahlı grupların kimisi, merkezi kontrol altına girmek yerine, kendi başlarına hareket ediyor. Bu kişiler silahlarını bırakıp evlerine dönmeyi reddediyor. - Trablus

<http://www.haberler.com/tunus-libya-sinirinda-gerginlik-3167318-haberi/>

- **Liberals 'decimated' in vote, says ElBaradei, Egypt's reformist presidential hopeful**

Mohamed ElBaradei said writing a constitution that respects human rights, dignity and freedom of expression should be based on a consensus among all players, not on a parliamentary majority. (Al Arabiya)

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO



Egypt's top reformist leader said Sunday the liberal youth behind the country's uprising have been "decimated" in parliamentary elections dominated by Islamists and expressed concern about the rise of hard-line religious elements advocating extremist ideas such as banning women from driving.

Mohamed ElBaradei, a Nobel Prize laureate and possible presidential candidate, said he hopes moderate Islamists will rein in the extremists and send a reassuring message to the world that Egypt will not go down an ultraconservative religious path.

"The youth feel let down. They don't feel that any of the revolution's goals have been achieved," ElBaradei told The Associated Press in an interview on the same day electoral authorities announced that Islamist parties captured an overwhelming majority of votes in the first round of elections last week. "They got

decimated,” he said, adding the youth failed to unify and form “one essential critical mass.”

The High Election Commission announced that the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood’s Freedom and Justice Party garnered 36.6 percent of the 9.7 million valid ballots cast last week for party lists. The Nour Party, representing the more hard-line Salafi Islamists, captured 24.4 percent.

The tallies offer only a partial indication of how the new parliament will look. There are still two more rounds of voting in 18 of the country’s 27 provinces over the coming month and runoff elections on Monday and Tuesday to determine almost all of the seats allocated for individuals in the first round. But the grip of the Islamists over the next parliament appears set, particularly considering their popularity in provinces voting in the next rounds.

Islamist blocs surprised everyone ElBaradei said he thought the combined strength of the two top-placed Islamist blocs surprised everyone, probably even the winning parties themselves.

“The outcome so far is not the greatest one,” he said, summing up the mood of the country’s educated elite as well as average Egyptians as “angst.”

The new parliament will be tasked, in theory, with selecting a 100-member panel to draft the new constitution. If Islamist parties dominate, more liberal forces worry the constitution will be greatly influenced by the religious perspective.

In a move that angered the Islamist groups, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which took control of the country after Mubarak’s fall in February, has suggested that it will choose 80 of those members.

ElBaradei said writing the constitution that respects human rights, dignity and freedom of expression should be based on a consensus among all the players, and not on a parliamentary majority.

“In my view, it is all in the hands of SCAF right now,” he said, hoping the ruling generals will help promote the consensus.

However, ElBaradei was highly critical of the military rulers, saying they have “royally mismanaged” the transition period.

He also raised concerns about statements by some Salafi elements questioning whether women should be banned from driving, as they are in Saudi Arabia, or branding the novels of Egypt’s Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz, as “prostitution.”

“I worry of course that some of the extreme stuff coming out from some of the Salafis ... when you hear that literature of somebody like Mahfouz is equal to prostitution, if you hear that we are still debating whether women are going to drive their cars, if we are still discussing whether democracy is against Shariah,” or Islamic law, ElBaradei said.

“These are of course sending shockwaves, statements like that. I think the Brotherhood in particular, and some of the Salafis, should send quickly messages of assurance both inside the country and outside the country to make sure that society continues to be cohesive to make sure that investment will come in.”

He said the statements “will have tremendous economic and political implications.” Moderate Islamists need to “make clear that some of these voices ... are on the extreme fringes and they will not be the mainstream.”

Safeguarding religious principles

The focus on safeguarding religious principles should be mindful of rampant poverty and illiteracy, not “about what people are going to dress, to drink,” he said.

Salafis are newcomers on Egypt’s political scene. They long shunned the concept of democracy, saying it allows man's law to override God’s. But they formed parties and entered politics after Hosni Mubarak's ouster in February, seeking to enshrine Islamic law in Egypt’s new constitution.

By contrast, the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt’s largest and best organized political group, was officially banned under Mubarak but established a nationwide network of activists. After Mubarak’s fall, the group's Freedom and Justice Party campaigned fiercely, their organization and name-recognition giving them a big

advantage over newly formed liberal parties.

ElBaradei said the Muslim Brotherhood's strong showing was not unexpected, given that Egypt is emerging from decades of brutal dictatorship that smothered civil society. He said one in every three Egyptians is illiterate and nearly half subsist in deep poverty.

"It should not be a surprise people are voting with their gut. People lost their sense of identity with the state. They identify with religion," ElBaradei said.

He said the Brotherhood has been working for many years providing basic needs for health care and other social services the government failed to deliver and they were well known throughout the country.

In contrast, the liberal youth groups behind the uprising failed to form a cohesive, unified front. He said they only formed political parties two months ago.

He predicted the Muslim Brotherhood will prefer to form an alliance with the liberals rather than the Salafis to get a majority in

parliament. The liberal Egyptian Bloc - which came in third with 13.4 percent of the votes - could counterbalance hard-line elements.

Free and fair elections

Nevertheless, ElBaradei agreed the first elections since Mubarak's fall were free and fair and said the massive turnout of about 60 percent lent it legitimacy.

However, he said it will not produce a parliament that represents Egyptian society. ElBaradei said he expects few women, youths or Coptic Christians, a minority that constitutes about 10 percent of Egypt's 85 million citizens.

The rise of the Islamists has also caused concern in the U.S. and Israel, which has a long-standing peace treaty with Egypt it fears might be in jeopardy. But ElBaradei said he does not foresee any radical changes in Egypt's foreign policy because the country still depends heavily on foreign assistance and cannot afford to isolate itself. Egypt is one of the largest recipients of U.S. foreign aid.

He said Egyptians are looking more to Turkey as a model for a moderate Islamist

state rather than Saudi Arabia and its strict imposition of Islamic law.

ElBaradei said Egypt has progressed since the revolution but the economy and law and order have deteriorated sharply.

“We are now a freer country,” he said. “People lost their sense of fear. ...We are empowered as a people.”

He said he is advising the liberal youth groups not to give up and to view this as a "long haul" process and to start preparing for the next elections, overcome their ideological differences and work together.

“We’ll have to keep fighting,” he said, adding that ‘the revolution is still a work in progress.”

He predicted protesters will return to Cairo’s Tahrir Square to keep pressing their demands.

“If you have the second wave of the revolution, it will be an angry one,” he said.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/05/180880.html?PHPSESSID=kvdai1egtqatp7rhd70d5b8md7>

- **Islamists seek to extend gains in Egypt run-off vote; 2nd phase to kick off Dec. 14**

Islamists picked up at least 65 percent of votes, with the more moderate Freedom and Justice Party in first place with 36.6 percent and the hardline Salafist al-Nur party in second with 24.4 percent. (Reuters)

By AL ARABIYA WITH AGENCIES
DUBAI/CAIRO



Islamist candidates in Egypt looked Monday to extend their crushing victory in the country’s first parliamentary elections since the toppling of Hosni Mubarak as voters turn out for run-off polls.

Last week, residents in a third of districts including Cairo and second-city Alexandria cast ballots at the start of the multi-stage polls, choosing a party and two candidates for a new 498-seat lower house of parliament.

In the party returns, Islamists picked up at least 65 percent of votes, with the more moderate Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) in first place with 36.6 percent and the hardline Salafist al-Nur party in second with 24.4 percent.

“We welcome the Egyptian people’s choice,” FJP spokesman Ahmed Sobeia told AFP on Sunday after the publication of results. “Egypt now needs all parties to cooperate together to get it out of its crisis.”

The surge in Salafist groups, which advocate a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam dominant in Saudi Arabia, was a surprise and raised fears among increasingly marginalized liberals about civil liberties and religious freedom.

In the individual contests, all but four of the 56 seats up for grabs went into a run-off vote being held on Monday because no candidate succeeded in winning an outright majority.

Out of the 52 run-off contests taking place, the Muslim Brotherhood’s FJP said it had a candidate in 45 of them, while al-Nur has 26, meaning they are almost

certain to increase their representation in the new assembly.

Sunday also brought news of the first violence since voting began when the driver of a liberal candidate died in a gunfight with supporters of the moderate al-Wasat party in the northern Manufia province, local reports said.

Brotherhood’s FJP widely forecast to triumph

A sealed ballot box is seen after voting ended at a polling station during the second day of parliamentary elections in Cairo. (Reuters)

The build up to the election had been ominous, with 42 people killed and more than 3,000 injured in violent protests against the interim military regime that is overseeing the country’s transition to democracy.

The Brotherhood’s FJP had been widely forecast to triumph in the first free election in decades.

It is the country’s most organized political group despite being officially banned for decades and is well known for its charity

work and opposition to Mubarak's 30-year regime.

Leaders were at pains to stress during campaigning that they were committed to multi-party democracy, inclusiveness and civil liberties, while also advocating the application of sharia (Islamic law).

Opponents accuse the Brotherhood's slick campaign machine of flouting a ban on canvassing near polling stations and say it handed out food and medicine to secure votes, but monitors said polling seemed fair overall.

"You cannot have democracy and then amend or reject the results," Amr Moussa, a front-runner for Egypt's presidency, told Reuters, adding that the shape of parliament would not be clear until the voting was over.

But the newcomer Salafist parties formed after Mubarak's fall trailed them only slightly in the city of Alexandria and won a majority in northern Kafr al-Sheikh and Damietta provinces.

Followers of the hardline strain of Islam advocate a stricter segregation of the

sexes, the full veiling of women and a ban on alcohol.

Parliamentary candidate Abdul-Moneim al-Shahat last week raised hackles when he accused the late Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz, a Nobel prize winner, of "inciting promiscuity, prostitution and atheism."

"Since forming our party, it has been the party that worked most on the ground and brought up issues such as education and the economy," al-Nur's head Emad Eddin Abdul Ghaffour told AFP on Sunday.

Few bright spots for liberals

There were few bright spots for the liberal secular movement which played a key role in the 18-day uprising that led Mubarak to stand down and hand power to a council of army leaders.

The main liberal coalition, the Egyptian Bloc, won just 1.29 million out of 9.73 million votes cast, or 13.4 percent.

Mohammed Hamed, a candidate with the liberal Free Egyptians party, warned that the Islamists would face widespread

resistance if they enforced a strict interpretation of Islam.

“All the people will turn into the opposition. Most Muslims are not extremist,” he told AFP.

The results in Egypt fit a pattern established in Tunisia and Morocco where Islamists have also gained in elections as they benefit from the new freedoms brought by the pro-democracy movements of the Arab Spring.

The result has unnerved Israel, concerned about the fate of its 1979 peace treaty with Egypt. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Egypt’s future rulers to preserve the deal.

“We hope any future government in Egypt will recognize the importance of keeping the peace treaty with Israel in its own right and as a basis for regional security and economic stability,” Netanyahu said on Sunday.

The fate of the peace deal between Egypt and Israel is a concern for its sponsor, the United States, which has backed it with

billions of dollars in military aid for both countries.

“We are worried,” Israel’s Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz said on Sunday, adding that he hoped Egypt “won’t become an extremist Islamist state because that would put the whole region in danger.”

Voting last Monday and Tuesday was only the opening phase of an election that will see the remaining two-thirds of districts go to the polls later this month and in January. Final results are due Jan. 13.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/05/180872.html?PHPSESSID=kvdai1egtqatp7rhd70d5b8md7>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON / ÜRDÜN

• Lebanon's Arabic press digest - Nov.5, 2011

Following are summaries of some of the main stories in a selection of Lebanese newspapers Monday. The Daily Star cannot vouch for the accuracy of these reports.

An-Nahar

Efforts to wrap up scandalous dispute over the Zahrani [power] plant

Government before test of regaining normality

What is the truth behind the unprecedented “scandalous electricity” issue that plunged much of Lebanon into darkness Friday, when the Zahrani power plant was disconnected from the Electricite Du Liban grid?

The issue was scandalous due to the circumstances surrounding the incident both in terms of the official and political “blackout” with as yet no word from the relevant minister as well as failure to take legal measures of the assault that targeted and crippled a public institution.

Based on information made available to An-Nahar, it appears that efforts are under way to wrap up the dispute and prevent its repercussions.

As-Safir

Government to resume work, pending [talks with] Aoun and [administrative] appointments

While the Zahrani power plant was back to producing electricity after its

“liberation” from the bickering among allies of the same ranks, the active resumption of work by the government still awaits the outcome of talks that will take place with Gen. Michel Aoun in these two days.

Meanwhile, a Cabinet meeting scheduled for Wednesday at Baabda Palace is still scheduled to take place with sources saying the session will proceed regardless of whether ministers from Aoun’s Free Patriotic Movement attend or not.

Representatives from the Marada Movement and Tashnaq are considering participating.

Prominent sources in the FPM told As-Safir that, based on the outcome of talks that continued well into the night Sunday, Aoun’s ministers would not attend Wednesday’s session.

However, they said their stance did not apply to all their allies, pointing out that the quality of the items on the agenda did not encourage a return to government sessions.

Separately, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Energy Minister Jibran Bassil succeeded in resuming operations at the Zahrani power plant. The deal calls for providing a transformer that meets the needs of the region.

Al-Mustaqbal

Abdel-Latif Zein holds energy minister responsible

Zahrani square: What mystery ... what deal?

A third day went by without electricity in most regions of Lebanon, in an unprecedented ordeal since the 2006 [Israeli] aggression which raised many questions and a lot of uncertainty over what happened and is happening at the “Zahrani square,” which is off-limits to EDL technical teams.

Amid this all, there was a blatant absence of any position or measure by Energy Minister Jibran Bassil.

With the lack of any official explanation as to what happened at the Zahrani power plant, except talk about “political”

solutions or solutions still under the works as a result of negotiations between Berri and Mikati, important questions were unleashed, most notably: Is there another “Tarshish” [network]?

[In October, residents of Tarshish prevented engineers from allegedly carrying out work on a telecommunications network belonging to Hezbollah].

Meanwhile, a member in Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri’s Liberation and Development bloc, MP Abdel Latif Zein, held EDL and Bassil responsible for “the suffering inflicted on the people of the south as a result of power outages.”

Al-Liwaa

Cabinet faces appointments, wages and fuel

Nahhas: FPM ministers’ decision on participation [in Cabinet] not finalized yet

Sources told Al-Liwaa that in the event a Cabinet session did take place Wednesday, a new item may be added to the agenda: calls for lowering the price of

diesel, a measure often taken by governments around this time of year.

The sources pointed out that one of the main topics on the agenda was the issue of wages and filling vacancies at the Tourism Ministry.

Labor Minister Charbel Nahhas told Al-Liwaa overnight that the FPM ministers' decision to participate in Wednesday's session was not yet finalized.

However, ministerial sources confirmed that the Cabinet meeting would take place as per schedule.

A ministerial source, on the other hand, denied Cabinet would tackle administrative appointments but he expected the government to approve a law to amend pay wages and another to fill vacant tourism police posts.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2011/Dec-05/156048-lebanons-arabic-press-digest---nov5-2011.ashx#axzz1feIKQzXU>

6. SYRIA / SURİYE

• Suriye'de istihbaratçılar da saf değiştirdi

Suriye'de, askerlerin ardından şimdi de istihbaratçıların saf değiştirerek muhaliflerin tarafına geçtiği bildirildi.



Suriye'de yönetim karşıtları Türkiye sınırı yakınındaki İdlib'te en az 12 istihbaratçının muhaliflerin safına geçtiğini duyurdu.

İddialara göre istihbaratçılar, hava kuvvetleri istihbarat karargahından kaçmalarından sonra bölgede silahlı çatışma çıktı. Çatışmada, istihbaratçılarla yönetim yanlısı güvenlik güçlerinden 10 kişi öldü.

GENELLİKLE SÜNNİLER SAF DEĞİŞTİRİYOR

Bunun, ordunun ardından istihbarattan muhalefet saflarına ilk geçiş olduğu belirtiliyor. Saf değiştirenlerin çoğunlukla Sünniler olduğuna da işaret ediliyor.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25302799/>

- **Esad için kritik gün**

Arap Birliği, Şam yönetiminin ülkedeki şiddeti sona erdirmesi için pazar gününü son gün ilan etti.



Arap Birliği Dışişleri Bakanları Katar'ın başkenti Doha'da bir araya geldi.

Açıklamayı yapan Katar Dışişleri Bakanı Şeyh Hamid, Suriye'ye tanıdıkları sabrın sonuna geldiklerini belirtti.

Bakanlar, yeni yaptırım kararı da aldı. Buna göre Esad yönetiminde yer alan 19 yetkilinin yurtdışındaki hesapları donduruldu. Bu isimlere Arap Birliği ülkelerine seyahat yasağı da getirildi.

Arap Birliği Dışişleri Bakanları Suriye'ye yapılan uçuşların yarı yarıya azaltılmasını da kararlaştırdı.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25302719/>

- **Beşşar Esad iPhone'u yasakladı**

Arap Baharı'yla birlikte şiddetin pençesine düşen Suriye'de muhaliflerin olaylarla ilgili görüntü çekmelerini engellemek için iPhone yasaklandı.



Rejim karşıtları, Suriye ordusunun halka karşı kullandığı şiddeti iPhone cep telefonlarıyla görüntüledikten sonra, bunu YouTube ve Facebook gibi sosyal paylaşım ağlarında yayınlamak dünyaya ulaştırıyordu.

Esad rejimi, muhaliflerin bu yöndeki eylemlerinin önüne geçmek için başta iPhone olmak üzere Apple şirketinin tüm ürünlerine yasak getirdi. Yasak çerçevesine diğer akıllı telefonların ise alınmadığı belirtildi.

Lübnan'da yayın yapan haber sitesi "El Nashara", muhaliflerin şiddet olaylarında görüntü almasını engellemek için Suriyeli yetkililerin iPhone'u yasakladığını yazdı. Lübnan'ın başkenti Beyrut'ta bulunan

Suriyeli muhalifler de Esad'ın iPhone'u yasakladığını doğruladı.

YASAK GÜMRÜK BİRİMLERİNE BİLDİRİLDİ
iPhone yasağıyla ilgili belgenin Suriye Maliye Bakanlığı'na bağlı gümrük müdürlüklerine gönderildiği belirtildi. Bakanlığın yazısında, "Yetkililer Suriye'de iPhone kullanımını konusunda uyarı yapıyor" denildi.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25302494/>

- **Hükümetin Kararları Türkiye'ye Cevap Teşkil Ediyor**

ŞAM – Bakanlar Kurulu bugün Başbakan Adil Sefer başkanlığında düzenlediği istisnai oturumunda; Türkiye hükümetinin son olarak Suriye'ye uyguladığı yaptırımlar ışığında Suriye-Türkiye ilişkilerini masaya yatırdı.

Oturumda; ulusal çıkarlar ışığında bil misil teamül ilkesine dayanarak bakanlar kurulu aşağıdaki maddeleri karara bağladı:

1- Suriye ve Türkiye arasında serbest ticaret bölgesinin kurulmasını öngören ortaklık anlaşması ve bu anlaşma çerçevesinde mevcut tüm karar, talimat ve uygulamaların dondurulması. Türkiye'den ithal edilen malların uygulanmakta olan

dış ticaret yasası kapsamına alınarak gümrük harçları tarifesinin uygulanması.

2- Gelişmekte olan köylerin imarını destekleme projesi hesabına olarak Türkiye'den Suriye'ye ithal edilen bütün Türk malı ürünler için ürün fiyatının %30'u değerinde gümrük harcı alınması.

3-Suriye'den Türkiye'ye giden Türkiye plakalı araçlara mazotun litresi 80 liradan satılmasıyla birlikte daha önce belirlenen limitler uyarınca; tır araçlarına 600 litre, kamyonlara 550 litre, otobüslere 400 litre minibüslere 200 ve otomobillere 50 litre'den fazla mazot satılmaması.

4- Suriye'den geçiş yapacak boş ve dolu Türkiye plakalı kamyonların ağırlığının gideceği yol mesafesiyle çarpılarak %2'sinin gümrük harcı olarak ödemesi ve bu meblağın Euro olarak ödenmesi.

Bakanlar Kurulu Genel Sekreteri Teysir el-Zoubi toplantıdan sonra gazetecilere yaptığı açıklamada hükümetin bugün kararlaştırdığı icraatların Türkiye'nin Suriye'ye ekonomik yaptırım uygulamakla ilgili aldığı icraatlara bir cevap teşkil ettiğini belirtti.

Türkiye'nin bu çerçevede aldığı icraatların Suriye halkının çıkarlarına zarar verdiğine dikkat çeken Zoubi; Suriye'nin de bil misil teamül ilkesine dayanarak bu icraatları uygulayacağını beyan etti.

Türkiye hükümetinin iki ülke arasındaki yüksek düzeyli stratejik işbirliği mekanizmasıyla ilgili çalışmalarını askıya aldığını aktaran Zoubi; ayrıca iki ülke arasında imzalanan ve uygulanmak üzere onaylanan anlaşmalarla ilgili oluşturulan ortak komitelerin çalışmalarını da askıya alan Türkiye hükümetinin Suriye Merkez Bankası ile ilişkilerini ve Suriye Ticaret Bankası ile muamelelerini dondurduğunu dile getirdi.

<http://sana.sy/tur/236/2011/12/04/385954.htm>

- **ALBA Ülkeleri Provokatör Medyayı Kınadı**

HAVANA – ALBA Ülkeleri Grubu; Suriye'nin tutumları nedeniyle maruz kaldığı medya politikasını protesto ederek; tüm bu medya savaşıyla ABD ve batılı ülkelerin Suriye'nin içişlerine müdahale etme bahanesi yaratmak istediklerini, ALBA Ülkeleri Grubunun da böyle bir müdahaleye kesinlikle karşı olduğunu altını çizdi.

İnsan Hakları Konseyinin Cenevre'de Suriye'ye ilişkin düzenlediği oturumda konuşma yapan ALBA Ülkeleri Grubu temsilcisi ve Ekvator heyeti başkanı; dayatma, baskı ve yaptırım politikasının Suriye'de krizin çözümüne hiç bir katkı sağlamadığını ve tam aksine çıkmaza sürüklediğini ifade etti. Aynı zamanda ALBA Ülkeleri Grubunun tamamıyla ve mutlak bir şekilde Suriye'nin içişlerine her türlü yabancı müdahaleye karşı olduğunu vurguladı.

Bu arada geçen Ekim ayında Suriye'yi ziyaret eden ALBA ülkeleri heyeti; ülkelerinin her zaman ve her konuda Suriye'nin yanında duracaklarını belirterek, uluslararası platformlarda Suriye'ye destek olacaklarını ifade etmişti. Heyet üyeleri ziyaretlerinde ayrıca; medya kanallarının Suriye'deki durumlara ilişkin yaptığı dezenformasyon ile gerçekler arasında büyük bir fark gördüklerinin altını çizmişlerdi.

ALBA Ülkeleri Grubu Venezüella, Küba, Bolivya, Ekvator ve Nikaragua'nın yanı sıra Karayip ülkelerinden Dominik, Saint Vincent ve Antigua ve Ahlgrenadeniz Barbod ülkelerini içeriyor.

<http://sana.sy/tur/237/2011/12/04/386057.htm>

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

• İran'a karşı 'bunker buster'lı savunma

İran'a yönelik baskıyı artıran ABD, İran ile sınırı bulunan Birleşik Arap Emirlikleri'ne (BAE) yeraltı sığınaklarını havaya uçuracak güçte 600 bomba satmaya hazırlanıyor. 900 kilogram ağırlığındaki bombalar, patlamadan önce yeri delerek hedefe ulaşıyor.



ABD Başkanı Barack Obama yönetimi, BAE'ye "bölgesel tehditleri caydırmak amacıyla" aralarında "bunker buster" olarak adlandırılan tipte bombaların da bulunduğu mühimmat satma teklifini ABD Kongresine sundu.

ABD Savunma Bakanlığı'ndan önceki gün yapılan açıklamada, BAE'ye satılması

düşünülen 304 milyon dolarlık askeri mühimmat, uçaktan atılan bombaları kullandığı GPS sistemiyle, 24,135 kilometre menzildeki hedefleri vurabilecek güdümlü bombalar haline getiren Amerikan Boeing şirketi üretimi 4900 kuyruk aparatı, 4300 "genel amaçlı" bombanın yanı sıra BLU-109 'Hard Target Penetrator' (Şiddetli Hedef Delicisi) adlı "bunker buster" tipi güçlü bombalardan oluşuyor.

ÖNCE YERİ DELİYOR SONRA PATLIYOR

Kullandığı gecikmeli fünyeli sistemi sayesinde patlamadan önce hedefin bulunduğu yere delerek giren 900 kilogram ağırlığındaki bu bombalar, özellikle yeraltına gömülü durumdaki düşman komuta yerleri, mühimmat depoları ve diğer tahkim edilmiş hedefleri yok etmede kullanılıyor.

ABD Savunma Bakanlığı Güvenlik İşbirliği Ajansı'nın ABD Kongresi'ne sunduğu yazıda, yapılan anlaşmanın BAE'nin "bölgedeki güncel ve gelecekteki tehditleri" karşılama yeteneğini artırmak ve saldırganlığa karşı caydırıcı olma amacını taşıdığı belirtiliyordu.

İRAN'IN NÜKLEER TESİSLERİ YERALTINDA

Ancak gözlemciler, ABD'nin nükleer silah geliştirmekle suçladığı İran'ın tüm ülkeye yayılmış durumdaki nükleer tesislerinin yer altındaki tahkim edilmiş sığınaklarda bulunduğuna dikkati çekiyor.

ABD'Lİ GENERALİN İSRAİL ENDİŞESİ

Reuters haber ajansına önceki gün konuşan ABD Genelkurmay Başkanı Orgeneral Martin Dempsey, İsrail'in İran'a yönelik bir askeri saldırı başlaması konusunda yaptığı değerlendirmede, İsrail'in İran'a yönelik bir askeri saldırı başlatmaya karar vermesi durumunda kendilerine önceden bilgi verip vermeyeceğini bilmediğini ifade etmişti.

Yaptığı açıklamada, yaptırımlar ve diplomatik baskının İran'a yönelik takip edilecek doğru yol olduğunu belirten Dempsey, başvurulacak en son yöntem olmakla beraber askeri hareketi da göz ardı etmediklerini söylemişti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25302378/>

- **Suriye'den Türkiye'nin yaptırımlarına yanıt**

Türkiye ile serbest ticaret anlaşması kapsamındaki tüm çalışmalar askıya alındı.



Dışişleri Bakanı Davutoğlu dün, 9 maddelik bir yaptırım listesi açıklamıştı.

ŞAM - Suriye hükümetinin Türkiye ile serbest ticaret anlaşması kapsamındaki tüm çalışmaları askıya aldığı bildirildi.

Suriye resmi haber ajansı Sana, Suriye hükümeti yetkililerine dayanarak, Türkiye'nin açıkladığı yaptırım kararlarına cevaben, Suriye hükümetinin iki ülke arasındaki serbest ticaret anlaşması kapsamındaki tüm çalışmaları askıya aldığını duyurdu.

Ajans, Suriye hükümetinin yaptırımlara karşılık, Türkiye ile ilgili başka kararları da değerlendirdiğini belirtti.

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25302163/>

- **Syria ignores Arab League deadline**

Deaths reported as new Arab League deadline for Syria to let observers in or face further sanctions expires.

Thirty-six people have been killed by security forces in Syria, activists say, as the deadline expired for the government to agree on a new Arab League plan to allow observers in to monitor the country's unrest or face further sanctions.

Syria signalled on Sunday that it might still be willing to comply with the Arab League's plan but was negotiating some details.

"Messages are being exchanged between Syria and the Arab League to reach a certain vision that would facilitate the mission of observers in Syria, while preserving Syrian interests and sovereignty," Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi said in Damascus.

Asked later in the day whether any decision had been made, he said: "If there are good intentions, the road is open toward signing an agreement." A more detailed response would be made on Monday, he said.

AFP news agency quoted a senior Qatari official as saying Damascus had asked for "new clarifications and further

amendments to be made to the protocol which was proposed" to cover the deployment of the observer mission.

But the Arab ministers had "refused".

The Qatari official said, however, that if Syrian officials "still want to sign; they can come tomorrow to Cairo."

Syria's failure to meet an earlier deadline on November 25 to allow observers saw the imposition of a raft of measures aimed at halting the authorities' violent crackdown on dissent. Measures including a ban on dealings with the country's central bank and a freeze of Syrian government assets have already been imposed.

Arab ministers have continued to meet to work out enforcement of the existing sanctions package.

Turkey also imposed sanctions on Syria last week, including a freeze on government assets and suspension of all financial dealings with Syria.

The state-run SANA news agency reported on Sunday that the Syrian government

had decided to retaliate by suspending a free trade agreement which allows Turkish imports into Syria tax-free and by introducing a 30 per cent tariff on all Turkish goods.

Jordan 'seeks exception'

Meanwhile, Al Jazeera's Nisreen El-Shamayleh, reporting from neighbouring Jordan, said she was hearing that the Jordanian government was asking the Arab League to be excluded from imposing sanctions because of the economic losses involved.

"Jordan is concerned about stopping flights between Damascus and Amman and about a high volume of trade between the two countries, amounting to \$400 million per year", she said.

"Nonetheless, Jordan says that as a government it supports the Arab consensus on punitive measures but it does not want to cut its bilateral economic ties."

Iraq and Lebanon have already said they will not impose sanctions on their neighbour.

US Assistant Secretary of State Jeffrey Feltman said monitors were needed to keep a check on the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"We believe that in full light of monitors and media, the security services reporting to Assad and his clique would not be able to operate the way they are operating now," he said in Jordan.

Allowing in monitors would be a "peaceful way of trying to stop this sustained cycle of violence that Assad seems committed to turning Syria into," Feltman said.

He accused Assad of forcing his minority Alawite sect, which has a tight grip on the country's military and security apparatus, into a bloody conflict with the country's majority Sunnis.

"Bashar al-Assad is the one who is deepening the sectarian hatred. He seems to be intent on fulfilling his own prophecy that Syria is going to move into chaos and civil war,"

Feltman said Washington has been in touch with Syrian Christians to prod them

"not to stand on the side of the attacker," but declined to elaborate.

Many among Syria's Christian and other minorities have sided with Assad, fearing they would be targeted if the Sunni majority takes over.

Authorities blame Sunni "extremists" and a foreign-backed conspiracy for the violence and the killing of more than 1,100 soldiers and police.

'Systematic violations'

Meanwhile, activists say November was the bloodiest month since the uprising started in March, with more than 700 civilians killed.

A majority of Sunday's deaths were reported in Homs province, which has become a focal point of the country's unrest.

The United Nations' top human rights forum on Friday condemned Syria for "gross and systematic" violations by security forces, including executions and the imprisonment of about 14,000 people.

Syria dismissed the UN vote as "unjust" and "prepared in advance by parties hostile to Syria" in a foreign ministry statement carried by SANA.

More than 4,000 people have died since protests broke out in March, according to the United Nations, which says the violence in Syria is taking the shape of a civil war.

Most foreign media have been banned from Syria, making it difficult to verify reports.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/12/2011123201853379572.html>

- **Yemen unity cabinet being formed**

Gulf-brokered government set to be named, despite ongoing protests in Taiz, say EU diplomat and Yemeni official.

Michele Cervone d'Urso, the EU's ambassador to Yemen, says new government 'days' away [AFP]

Yemen's prime minister-designate, Mohammed Basindawa, is expected to announce a national unity government

within two days, a European diplomat and a Yemeni official said on Sunday.

The government "will be formed within the next couple of days, and if they do it today it is even better," Michele Cervone d'Urso, the EU's ambassador to Yemen, said.

Yemen's outgoing deputy information minister, Abdo al-Janadi, said on Sunday: "According to my information, the government should be announced today."

Half of the government must be opposition members while regime loyalists make up the other half, based on a Gulf-brokered and UN-backed power transfer plan which President Ali Abdullah Saleh signed on November 23.

Cervone said that a military commission, which under the agreement is to oversee a restructuring of the security services and the withdrawal of gunmen from the streets, would also be formed "with the next couple of days."

The opposition warned on Saturday that it will not go ahead with forming a unity government until the military commission

is formed and fighting stopped in Taiz where 31 people were killed in clashes between the army and dissident tribespeople.

State media reported later the same day that a ceasefire had come into effect after a call by Vice President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi for an end to the fighting which broke out on Thursday and for a pullout of troops and other fighters.

Saleh signed the Gulf-brokered deal last month in Riyadh under which his powers were passed on to his deputy, although he remains honorary president until February.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/12/2011124143710652439.html>

- **Bomb explodes near UK embassy in Bahrain**

There were no casualties in the blast early on Sunday, say Bahraini and British officials.



A bomb placed under a vehicle exploded near the British embassy in Bahrain's capital Manama but caused no casualties, according to the Gulf Arab state's interior ministry and embassy officials.

"Given the strength of the explosion and the debris it scattered, it was a highly explosive substance that was used," a ministry spokesperson said in comments on Twitter posted live from a news conference.

"The explosion was the result of a package placed under the front tyre," he said, adding there were no casualties. He described the vehicle as a minibus parked some 50m from the embassy compound early on Sunday.

Bahrain has been tense since pro-democracy protests erupted in February following revolts in Egypt and Tunisia. The government imposed martial law for

nearly three months and ordered mass detentions and trials to crush the protests.

The government, dominated by the Sunni Muslim al-Khalifa family, said the protests, led by majority Shia, had sectarian motives.

"We are working with the Interior Ministry and we have requested a temporary increase in security," a spokesperson at the British embassy said, adding the blast took place between 1 and 2am.

"There were no casualties or damage to the embassy. We cannot identify yet the cause or the responsibility."

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/12/201112413138198558.html>

8. AFGHANISTAN - PAKISTAN / AFGANİSTAN - PAKİSTAN

• Karzai accuses Pakistan of stalling talks with Taliban

KABUL, (AFP) – Afghan President Hamid Karzai has accused Pakistan, which is boycotting an international conference on Afghanistan starting Monday in Bonn, of undermining all negotiations with the Taliban.

"Up until now, they have sadly refused to back efforts for negotiations with the Taliban," Karzai told Der Spiegel weekly in comments reported in German and due to be published on Monday.

The Bonn meeting will seek to chart a course for Afghanistan after the NATO withdrawal in 2014, but a boycott by Pakistan has dealt a blow to already fragile hopes for a roadmap.

Pakistan is seen as vital to any prospect of stability in the war-ravaged country a decade after US-led forces ousted the Taliban, who had offered safe haven to Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

But Islamabad pulled out after 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed in cross-border NATO air strikes a week ago, although sources close to the German foreign ministry said it would be kept informed of progress at the conference.

The United States has voiced regret over the strikes but has stopped short of issuing an apology while the American military conducts an investigation.

Islamabad has so far refused to take part in the probe, exacerbating fears of a prolonged crisis between Pakistan and the United States.

Pakistan, reacting to fury from its people over the attack, shut down NATO's vital supply line into Afghanistan and boycotted the Bonn conference.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Saturday called Pakistan's prime minister to offer condolences over the strike.

In the call with Yousuf Raza Gilani, Clinton "reiterated America's respect for Pakistan's sovereignty and commitment to working together in pursuit of shared objectives on the basis of mutual interest and mutual respect," the State Department said.

A statement from Gilani's office said he told Clinton that Pakistan's non-attendance at Bonn was not open to review since it had received the backing of parliament's national security committee.

The committee "has supported the decision of the cabinet not to participate in the Bonn conference," the statement

quoted Gilani as saying, adding that parliament was also looking into the broader relationship with Washington.

Pakistan's decision deals a blow to hopes for drawing up a roadmap for Afghanistan's future, 10 years after Germany staged another international meeting on political transition following the fall of the Taliban.

As a neighbour with historic ties to the Taliban, Pakistan is considered integral to ending the decade-long conflict, but experts say a boycott matters less now that already modest expectations for Bonn have been dramatically curtailed.

Diplomats had hoped the conference would help broker peace with the Taliban, but the September assassination of Kabul peace envoy Burhanuddin Rabbani derailed those efforts and contacts are said to have achieved little.

Karzai also appealed for continued aid to his war-ravaged nation after 2014, when the last NATO combat troops are due to pull out after handing over responsibility for security to Afghan forces.

Stressing that Afghanistan will be "more than ever on the frontline," he said: "If we fail in this war, which threatens all of us, it will mean a return to the situation before 9/11."

The Afghan leader conceded that "sadly we have not been able to provide security and stability to all Afghans -- this is our greatest failure."

Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rasoul appealed Saturday for international support for his country after NATO troops withdraw.

"After 2014, we will continue to need long-term support from our friends in the international community," Rasoul said at a discussion forum in Bonn.

His German counterpart Guido Westerwelle vowed at the forum that the world would not abandon Afghanistan.

In an interview to appear in Sunday's Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, Westerwelle again voiced his regret over the Pakistani boycott of the conference, which will gather delegates from 100 nations.

"Pakistan has more to gain from a stable and peaceful Afghanistan than any of its neighbours," he said.

<http://asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=27545>

- **Key absences hinder Afghan talks in Bonn**

Boycotts by Taliban and Pakistan dim hopes for breakthrough as conference looks to plot course for country beyond 2014.

International delegates are gathering in the German city of Bonn for a conference on the future of Afghanistan, but the absence of the Taliban and Pakistan from proceedings has raised questions about what the talks can achieve.

More than 100 national delegations and aid organisations will attend Monday's conference, with Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, and Ali Akbar Salehik, Iran's foreign minister, among the most high-profile participants.

The meeting comes a decade after a conference in the same German city installed Hamid Karzai as Afghan president

in the wake of a US-led invasion which removed the Taliban from power in Kabul.

But leaders of the Taliban, who have since waged a decade-long fight against Afghan and international coalition forces, will not attend, saying the meeting will "further ensnare Afghanistan into the flames of occupation".

Pakistan is also boycotting the event after an airstrike by NATO troops stationed in Afghanistan killed 24 Pakistani soldiers last week.

Islamabad is considered key to bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table due to its historic ties with the fighters.

The absence of two major players has dampened expectations of progress on reconciliation among ordinary Afghans as well as officials.

Fazal Rahim, a 37-year-old money exchanger in Kabul, said: "The Afghan government and the international backers should encourage the Taliban to take part in this conference because the Taliban are part of this land and without their

participation, the Bonn conference will not give positive results".

Their non-attendance also risks making Bonn part of what Sherard Cowper-Coles, a former British ambassador to Kabul, called the "charade" of international conferences on Afghanistan, dogged by "diplomacy for diplomacy's sake".

Security decline

NATO and the UN may dispute whether violence is up or down in Afghanistan, but a string of high-profile attacks on international and government targets in Kabul has fed perceptions that security is declining.

"What everybody expects is to find ways to bring security and stability to Afghanistan," said Ahmad Wali, a 29-year-old economics student in the city.

With countries contributing to the NATO-led international coalition determined to withdraw combat troops by the end of 2014, diplomats in Kabul earlier this year talked of the possibility of Taliban attending Bonn as part of a single Afghan delegation.

But such hopes were dashed after tentative contacts collapsed and the assassination of President Hamid Karzai's peace envoy, Burhanuddin Rabbani - blamed on the Taliban - derailed any prospects of progress.

Diplomats now say western powers' relationship with Afghanistan after 2014 and the transition to Afghan control will dominate the conference agenda.

"I'm not expecting a huge amount on reconciliation," William Patey, the UK's ambassador to Kabul, said. "I'm not expecting much other than an affirmation that the Afghan government, supported by the international community, stands ready to talk peace and reconciliation with the Taliban when and if they're ready."

Another diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, was more blunt.

"Nothing will happen at Bonn regarding the Taliban," he said.

Ten years later

Organisers are playing down expectations that the conference will rival one exactly 10 years ago which established an interim administration led by Karzai and mapped out a roadmap for elections.

On December 7, 2001, soon after that conference, the Taliban surrendered Kandahar, their heartland and last major Afghan stronghold.

But some argue that decisions taken at the 2001 Bonn conference caused some of the problems facing the country today.

Cowper-Coles wrote this year in his memoirs that the conference had been "a victor's peace from which the vanquished had been excluded".

Whether or not the Taliban could have been persuaded to attend, there is a growing feeling that Afghanistan's problems are now too serious to be solved by a very public international meeting.

"The tough work on resolving conflicts like these necessarily takes place behind the scenes," Brian Katulis, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress think-tank, wrote last month.

Open meetings "are the least likely arenas to address some of the thorniest issues at the core of the conflict, including the role played by neighbours such as Pakistan and Iran and the diplomatic strategy for dealing with [the Taliban]".

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2011/12/2011124154729403987.html>

**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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