

CONTINUATION FROM FRONT PAGE

**Missile Attack:
Scores Of Coalition
Forces Killed In Yemen**

Yemenis were killed in the missile attack, according to the sources in the military.

Commander of the Saudi Special Forces, Abdullah al-Suhayyan, was killed along with Emirati commander, Sultan Ben Hwaidan, said the sources, indicating that foreign mercenaries were also killed.

Three Apache helicopters and some 50 armored trucks were all knocked out. The coalition forces have recently been mobilized there to mount a ground offensive in a bid to liberate Taiz city. In mid-November, the coalition announced a major operation to advance on Taiz but it has been unable to make a push toward the city.

Since early October when the Saudi-led coalition declared its takeover of Bab al-Mandab Strait on the Red Sea, the camp was set up in Dhubat town.

**Civilian Death Toll On
The Rise As Coalition
Continues Bombing**

Cluster bombs did not explode and are still scattered on the streets of the city, which could jeopardize the lives of civilians who are still found on the city for they have no other shelters.

Meanwhile, the coalition's warplanes continue to pound the al-Hajarah village for the second day in a row while other aerial attacks on the Haradh district reached the tel-communications towers and Aziz Shopping Center downtown the city. Moreover, different areas of Razih and Ketaf districts were targeted by the artillery shells of the coalition's forces, but there were no reports of casualties.

In the northern province of Sa'adah, local sources were quoted by the Arabic al-Yemen al-Youm newspaper as saying, "the warplanes of the Saudi-led aggression ravished the house of a citizen named Ali Raqa", where relatives were celebrating a wedding party in the house and killed both the bride and the groom," however; other casualties reports could not be independently verified.

Saudi Arabia has committed multiple massacres across Yemen since the launch of its bombing campaign on Yemen on March 26, 2015 with the first massacre in the port city of Mokha, which targeted a wedding party in the Wahjah village, killing at least 135 mere civilians, mostly women and children and wounding dozens of others on Monday, Sep 28, according to UN, local official and medical reports.

Two Saudi air strikes struck on Monday two tents of a wedding party in Wahjah village, near the Red Sea port city of Mokha, Taiz province, killing at least 135 civilians, the majority of whom were women and children, according to security officials and witnesses.

In less than a week following Mokha massacre, the warplanes of Saudi Arabia and its

allies hit another wedding party in Sanaban village of Dhamar province, killing at least 55 people and wounding more than 60 others; the majority of the dead and wounded is mostly women and children, according to security and health reports.

At about 10:00 PM on Wednesday, Oct 7, the jet fighters of the Saudi-led coalition launched a couple of heavy air raids on the area of Sanaban, southeast of the capital Sana'a where hundreds were celebrating the wedding party of three bridegrooms in the province of Dhamar.

Since Saudi Arabia along with its Arab and western allies launched their aerial bombing campaign against the Middle East's poorest country "Yemen", more than 5500 people have been killed, most of them were women and children and roughly more than 27,000 others have inflicted different injuries, according to UN.

**Saudi-led Coalition
Forces Fail in Marib
Despite Heavy Airstrikes**

artillery shelling that resulted in the death of five mercenaries and the injury of four others in addition to the destruction of an Armored Fighting Vehicle (AFV), the sources added.

Meanwhile, Saudi-led Coalition warplanes launched more than 12 air strikes against Wadi al-Makhdarah, Hailan Mountain, Wadi al-Dharf and Sirwah market on Sunday, December 13, according to both local and military sources. The sources pointed out that the air strikes against Sirwah market resulted in the destruction of commercial stores and locals' houses.

In al-Dhale' province, clashes continued in Qou'tobah district amidst heavy losses within the ranks of the Saudi-led/US-backed invaders' mercenaries ranks inflicted by Yemen's military and popular committees on Sunday, December 13, according to both local and military sources.

The sources stated that Yemen's military and popular committees ambushed the mercenaries in Murais of Qou'tobah who fled Damt city earlier, killing 13 of them and injuring five others.

In Taiz province, more than 20 mercenaries, including 16 Sudanese, were killed and others injured in an attack by Yemen's military and popular committees that targeted their positions in al-Shateri area of Karesh, al-Qubaitah district on Sunday, December 13, according to both military and local sources.

This came after Ansar Allah affiliated channel, al-Masirah TV, quoted on Saturday, December 12, a military source as saying that an Argentine Blackwater mercenary called Izal Foldenstein was killed in a shelling by Yemen's military and popular committees against their positions in Karesh.

Earlier on Tuesday, December 8, Yemen's military and popular committees advanced, on al-Tal'ah al-Hamra area west of Marib city, the provincial capital of Marib province,

on their way to recapture al-Masariah hill, al-Jafinah and al-Balaq, overlooking the city from the western and southern sides, according to both local and military sources.

The sources stated that after a series of triumphs in the areas of al-Mashjah, al-Melh and Kawfal, Yemen's military and popular committees continued their advances to regain the al-Tal'ah al-Hamra area. Clashes broke out between Yemen's military and popular committees on one hand and Saudi-led Coalition mercenaries using aerial cover, resulting in casualties mostly within the ranks of the mercenaries who also lost several of their military vehicles and equipment.

Meanwhile in al-Jawf province, the artillery and rocket support forces of Yemen's military and popular committees began, Tuesday, December 8, bombarding Saudi-led/US-backed invaders' mercenaries in al-Kana'es of Khub and al-Sha'af district, military sources reported. Mercenary positions led by Islah party leader Saleh al-Rawsa constituting the last mercenary stronghold on the Jawf-Marib-Hadhramout border were pounded resulting in casualties and material losses within their ranks, the source added. For their part, Saudi-led/US-backed invaders' warplanes launched eight air raids against al-Labinat camp in Khub and al-Sha'af, however no casualties were reported.

In Taiz province, 14 international mercenaries working for Blackwater, now called Academi were killed including two British advisers, a Frenchman, an Australian and six Colombians after Tuesday midnight, December 8, according to al-Masirah net website.

Seven foreign mercenaries were killed, two of them British advisers including a colonel in addition to a Frenchman and an Australian national in clashes witnessed by Dhu Bab, south-west of Yemen after Tuesday midnight, December 8, al-Masirah net reported on Wednesday, December 9.

A security source was quoted by al-Masirah net as saying that that one of the advisers called Arthur Kingston, holds the rank of a colonel at a certain British paratroopers force, probably the SAS, and worked as an instructor at the Yemeni al-Sobahah military position and the Central Security Forces (CSF) in Sana'a four years ago.

The source added that the other Brit adviser is called "Arthur Bonester" and works for the American Blackwater private American military company and security consulting firm that hires mercenaries of various nationalities. A Frenchman named Jean-Philippe Fordan who works for the same company was also killed in action.

Meanwhile, six Colombian mercenaries were killed along with their Australian leader "Philip Streetman" in confrontations for camp al-Omayr in Taiz province, all of whom worked for Blackwater in favor of the Saudi-led Coalition aggression.

This comes after three Sudanese soldiers were killed, Monday, December 7, after Yemen's military and popular committees targeted their concentration point in Lahj province.

**Water, Wars And An
Uncertain Future**

BY SUNDEEP WASLEKAR*

In December 2009, I met Walid Mualllem, Foreign Minister of Syria, in his office in Damascus, along with an eminent British politician. He rolled out before us his vision of peace process with Israel in phases. He had two essential conditions.

First, secured access to the waters of Tiberias should be guaranteed. Second, Turkey should underwrite the peace process. He said that the government in Damascus could trust only one state as the guarantor of its interests. It was Turkey under Erdogan's leadership.

In our Blue Peace report, published in February 2011, Strategic Foresight Group proposed several solutions to use water as an instrument of peace and prosperity in the Middle East. One of them was adapted from Mualllem's framework.

A month after the release of the report, Syria was engulfed with civil strife.

The primary reason was the erosion of social contract between the state and its citizens. But one of the key contributing factors was drought and the failure to pursue regional water cooperation, which had forced many farmers into destitution and migration to over-strengthened cities. Syria's most trusted ally turned into its most strident enemy. A regional war followed that now threatens to turn into a global confrontation.

In some other parts of the world, leaders have recognised the unstated relationship between water, peace and security. The relations between India and Bangladesh dramatically improved when a treaty for managing the Teesta River was drafted in a grand bargain over the security paradigm.

In 2013, Strategic Foresight Group brought together leaders of the ruling and opposition parties in India and Bangladesh to prepare a framework that would lead to the signing of the Teesta River treaty and introduce a mechanism to avert water conflict for the next thousand years. In the former Yugoslavia, no sooner was the Dayton Agreement signed, did the newly born states enter into an agreement for collaborative management of the Sava River. It contributed to achieving peace and cooperation in the Balkans which had only seen death and violence until then.

As the subtle equation between water, war and peace was being revealed in different parts of the world, unnoticed by the global public opinion, Strategic Foresight Group took two steps. First, we developed a Water Cooperation Quotient for 219 shared river basins from 148 countries. It proved that any two countries engaged in active water cooperation do not go to war for any other reason.

Second, we collaborated with the Government of Switzerland to create a Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace in November 2016. Co-convened by the governments of 15 countries from all continents, the panel is chaired by Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia. HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan is a distinguished member of the body.

The panel will respond to appeals made by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to examine the linkages between water, peace and security. It will propose a global architecture to use water as an instrument of peace through financial incentives, establishment of hydro-diplomacy mechanisms, encouragement to form joint water management bodies in all basins, promotion of best practices and, most significantly, engagement of senior political leaders in the water discourse. The panel will hold consultations in different parts of the world and present its report to the United Nations system by December 2017.

If the panel succeeds in preparing an operational architecture, it will have an impact on the life of 2.3 billion people living in shared river basins of the developing world, with a combined annual economic product of \$10 trillion. Over the years, as cooperative water management spreads, the incremental capital output ratio will go down and the military expenditure will also decline. This will create a peace dividend of \$200 billion per year.

If the panel fails to propose a convincing global architecture, chaos will take place. At present, water resources are depleting at the rate of over 320 billion cubic meters in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This is equal to ten Euphrates Rivers disappearing from the face of the earth every year. If this trend continues, there will be steep decline in food production and a fresh demand for about 200-300 million tonnes of food grains in the international market. This will raise food prices to unprecedented heights. Food riots will follow not only in Nepal and Nigeria but also in Peru and Paraguay. No country in the world will escape the calamity of high food prices, forced migration, terrorism, dictatorships and perhaps a World War starting in 2039.

Dider Burkhalter, Swiss Foreign Minister, cautioned at the launch of the Global High Level Panel: "Water is not just about development. It is also about security." Syria had understood this in December 2009. But failure to act with urgency has driven the entire Middle East to the precipice. It is about time that the world wakes up before the story of Syria is repeated in every region.

* Dr. Sundeep Waslekar is President of Strategic Foresight Group, an international think tank that has worked with or on 50 countries from four continents.

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