



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

**Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries**

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

**The Restructuring Procces of Iraq**

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

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**04 APRIL 2017**

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## 1. IRAQ

- **US Ambassador: Raising Kurdish Flag In Kirkuk Disperses Efforts To Fight Daesh**

US Ambassador Douglas Silliman said that the United States, on Iraqi government's desire, will keep a US force's advisers to train Iraqi forces, especially for US weapons. He said in response to a question from (NINA) during a round table set up by the US Embassy on developments in the Iraqi arena, "The United States and according to the desire of the Iraqi government will keep a force of US advisers to train Iraqi forces, especially with US weapons and any presence now or in the future is on request of the Iraqi government".

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?bl%252bP14l8KsQtQGpzCsDciQ%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?bl%252bP14l8KsQtQGpzCsDciQ%253d%253d)

- **35 killed, injured as IS militants shell gas bombs west of Mosul**

Thirty-five civilians, including women and children, were killed and injured as Islamic State militants fired bombs loaded with toxic gases, west of Mosul. "IS fighters shelled bombs of toxic gases in Rajm al-Hadid area in western Mosul, which was completely freed by security troops earlier this week, targeting civilians," a security source told Dijlah TV on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/35-killed-injured-militants-shell-gas-bombs-west-mosul/>

- **Mosul: IS Executes Imam after He Refused Approving Death Sentences**

Islamic State (IS) militants have recently killed the Imam of a mosque in western Mosul after he reportedly refused to approve a death sentence issued by the jihadist group. "IS militants shot dead the Imam of a mosque in Hawi al-Kanisah region in front of the residents after he refused to approve a death sentence against people who refused to take part in terrorist operations against the security troops deployed there," a source told al-Sumaria as reported by Iraqi News.

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/340628>

- **Mosul from the sky: Evidence of IS using human shields**

The BBC has seen evidence that so-called Islamic State (IS) has been using children as human shields as they fight to keep control of the Iraqi city of Mosul. BBC Persian correspondent Nafiseh Kohnavard and producer Joe Inwood had exclusive access to helicopter missions of the Iraqi military and witnessed the battle from above. Erij Military camp is a dusty compound just a few miles south of

Mosul. The mangled and melted gas tanks that rise in the background hint at violent battles in the recent past. Giant attack helicopters sit on the tarmac, their sleek fronts give them an aggressive look, ready for action.

More Details:

[http://www.shafaq.com/en/En\\_NewsReader/f2e13e8a-4898-48f0-93cb-270f82f4f8dc/Mosul-from-the-sky--Evidence-of-IS-using-human-shields](http://www.shafaq.com/en/En_NewsReader/f2e13e8a-4898-48f0-93cb-270f82f4f8dc/Mosul-from-the-sky--Evidence-of-IS-using-human-shields)

- **Kushner examine fight against ISIS, discuss Strategy**

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff arrived here today on one of his periodic visits to assess the health of the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford brought Jared Kushner, the senior advisor to President Donald J. Trump, and Tom Bossert, the president's homeland security advisor, with him for meetings with Iraqi, American and coalition officials.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40127](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=40127)

- **Iraqi Foreign Ministry condemns St. Petersburg metro suicide bombing**

Iraqi Foreign Ministry condemned the suicide bombing that targeted St.Petersburg metro in Russia on Monday. In a statement, the Ministry asserted that the international community needs to increase its efforts to eliminate terrorist groups that targets civilian innocents.

More Details:

<http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/8949/Iraqi-Foreign-Ministry-condemns-St-Petersburg-metro-suicide-bombing>

- **Nearly 50 civilian casualties in Mosul today amid heavy US aerial bombardment**

Tens of Iraqi non-combatants were killed in Mosul across four ISIS-held neighborhoods on Monday as American airstrikes and Iraqi artillery shelling caused significant collateral damage, Amaq Agency stated. The outlet claimed 23 residents were killed and 24 more wounded by bombing in western Mosul today, specifically at the Al-Mashahda, Al-Yarmouk, Al-Farouk and Tanaka suburbs.

More Details:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/nearly-50-civilian-casualties-mosul-today-amid-heavy-us-aerial-bombardment/>

- **The White House's failure to keep Jared Kushner's trip to Iraq secret became a security risk**

The Trump administration's failure to keep senior adviser Jared Kushner's trip to Iraq secret isn't standard practice for top U.S. officials visiting warzones. Such trips are usually kept quiet, with the cooperation of journalists, until the officials arrive in order to ensure maximum security. A senior administration official told reporters Sunday evening that Kushner — President Donald Trump's son-in-law — was in Iraq, even though he was still en route. For the military and security professionals managing the mission, the public disclosure of the unannounced trip was a security breach. Gen. Joseph Dunford, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, also was on board.

More Details:

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/ap-news-of-iraq-trip-with-kushner-midair-poses-security-risks-2017-4>

- **Iraq's Kirkuk Province In Favour Of Referendum To Decide Fate**

The provincial council of the ethnically mixed Kirkuk province voted Tuesday in favour of a draft to hold a referendum to decide the fate of the province whether to join the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan or remain as part of Iraq, China's Xinhua news agency reported. The decision of Kirkuk's Kurdish-dominated provincial council was made by the voting of majority of 26 members out of 41, the total number of the provincial council, after the walkout of the Arab and Turkoman council members.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1344537>

- **Decision to reveal Jared Kushner's Iraq trip before arrival poses security risks**

The Trump administration's failure to keep senior adviser Jared Kushner's trip to Iraq secret isn't standard practice for top U.S. officials visiting warzones. Such trips are usually kept quiet, with the cooperation of journalists, until the officials arrive in order to ensure maximum security. A senior administration official told reporters Sunday evening that Kushner - President Donald Trump's son-in-law - was in Iraq, even though he was still en route. For the military and security professionals managing the mission, the public disclosure of the unannounced trip was a security breach. Gen. Joseph Dunford, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, also was on board.

More Details:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/report-trump-donor-blackwater-founder-erik-prince-in-secret-meeting-with-russian-close-to-putin/>

- **UN Says some 300,000 displaced by Fighting in Iraq's Mosul**

The United Nations says around 300,000 people have been displaced by the U.S.-backed Iraqi operation to drive the Islamic State group from Mosul, the country's second largest city. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Tuesday that a total of 392,000 people have fled their homes since the offensive began in October, but that 94,500 have since returned. The International Organization for Migration puts the number currently displaced at 302,400.

More Details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_IRAQ?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-04-04-07-45-25](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_IRAQ?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-04-04-07-45-25)

- **Iraq's Kirkuk Provincial Council Calls Referendum on Kurdish Governance**

The decision was announced at a press briefing by Council's chair Rebwar Talabani, who said the Iraqi government had been informed about this move. Kirkuk is a majority Kurdish-populated region that was given a disputed area status by Iraq's constitution drafted with US help after its 2003 invasion. The province was to hold a self-determination vote by 2007 but a political crisis in Baghdad derailed this plan.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201704041052275039-iraq-kirkuk-referendum-kurdish-governance/>

- **OPEC thanks Iraq for its role in balancing the market**

Iraqi compliance with a multilateral effort to restore balance to the global market for oil has led to its success, OPEC's secretary-general said from Baghdad. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is leading a multilateral effort to balance an over-supplied market with managed production declines. Iraq is the second-largest oil producer in OPEC, behind Saudi Arabia.

More Details:

[http://www.upi.com/Energy-News/2017/04/04/OPEC-thanks-Iraq-for-its-role-in-balancing-the-market/7691491299841/?utm\\_source=sec&utm\\_campaign=sl&utm\\_medium=1](http://www.upi.com/Energy-News/2017/04/04/OPEC-thanks-Iraq-for-its-role-in-balancing-the-market/7691491299841/?utm_source=sec&utm_campaign=sl&utm_medium=1)

- **Iraq's PMF Challenges US Coalition Stats on Number of ISIL Militants Remaining in Mosul**

A spokesperson for Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces said the number of ISIL militants currently fighting in Western Mosul stands at 2000 members, higher than the 1000 estimated by the US-led coalition. The PMF's spokesperson, Ahmed al-Assadi, said Tuesday that 70 percent of ISIL militants in Western Mosul were Iraqi nationals, Alsumariya reported. "Numbers mentioned by US officials,

about the numbers of terrorist ISIL members being nearly 1000, are related to only Western Mosul,” Assadi said.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960115000865>

- **Christians in Iraq to embark on 80-mile 'peace walk' across the war-torn country in Holy Week**

Christians in Iraq will take part in an 80-mile 'peace walk' during Holy Week to urge an end to violence in the country and around the Middle East. The walk, which will begin on Palm Sunday in Irbil, is being supported by the Chaldean Catholic patriarch, Louis Sako of Baghdad, who said: 'Peace must be achieved by us [religious leaders] as well as politicians, through courageous initiatives and responsible decisions.'

More Details:

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/christians.in.iraq.to.embark.on.80.mile.peace.walk.across.the.war.torn.country.in.holy.week/106731.htm>

- **Iraq's President, Prime Minister, meet with OPEC Secretary-General in Baghdad**

OPEC Secretary-General, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo has met with the President of Iraq, Fuad Masum, in Baghdad. The Iraqi President commended the OPEC Secretary-General on the successful meetings of the Organisation held among OPEC Member Countries and OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers, which led to the historic decisions taken at the 170th and 171st Meetings of the OPEC Conference, including the Declaration of Cooperation in late 2016.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302606841>

- **Baghdad Demands Apology after Kuwait's Jets Scramble in Iraq Airspace**

Supersonic booms flooded the air in the Iraqi province of Safwan and the Iraqi authorities demanded an apology for what they say was an attempt by Kuwait to intimidate them. At least a Kuwait military jet ventured seven kilometers into Iraqi airspace on Monday, while it is not clear whether Iraq scrambled jets in response, the Iraqi authorities expressed their anger over the move by Kuwait, Iraqi News reported.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960115000582>

- **UK and Iraq signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**

Frank Baker, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Iraq, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Razak Abdul Jaleel Al- Essa, the Acting Minister for Finance, signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). On 5 March, Frank Baker, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Iraq, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Razak Abdul Jaleel Al- Essa, the Acting Minister for Finance, signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Under this new agreement, UK Export Finance (UKEF) will work closely with the Iraqi authorities to identify suitable infrastructure development projects to utilise UKEF's export finance support for UK companies.

More Details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-iraq-signed-a-historic-memorandum-of-understanding-mou>

- **Kurdish flag over Kirkuk violates Iraq charter: Iran FM**

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday said the practice of raising the Kurdish regional flag over public institutions in Iraq's northern city of Kirkuk was a violation of Iraq's national charter. "Raising the [Kurdish regional] flag beside the Iraqi national flag [in Kirkuk] is contrary to Iraq's constitution," ministry spokesman Behram Kasimi said in a Monday statement.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/kurdish-flag-over-kirkuk-violates-iraq-charter-iran-fm/787133>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Turkey preparing for new military operations in northern Syria**

Turkey is gearing up for new military operations following the conclusion of Operation Euphrates Shield in northern Syria, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/turkey-preparing-new-military-operations-northern-syria-958368>

- **EU FMs: No Future for Assad in Post-Conflict Syria**

European Union foreign ministers adopted Monday a common strategy on Syria, on the eve of the Brussels Conference "Supporting the future of Syria and the region".

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/a-mustafa/news-middle-east/eu-fms-no-future-assad-post-conflict-syria>

- **Syrian people do not want Assad in power, US envoy tells UN**

The United States believes the Syrian people do not want President Bashar Assad to remain in power and does not accept that he could stand in elections, Ambassador Nikki Haley said Monday. Haley told a news conference that Assad is a “war criminal,” “a hindrance to peace for a long time” and that his treatment of Syrians was “disgusting.”

More Details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/syrian-people-do-not-want-assad-in-power-us-envoy-tells-un/>

- **UN: Syrian Agriculture Faces \$16B Bill from Conflict**

Syria's six-year conflict has caused at least \$16 billion in damage to agriculture - about a third of the country's GDP - a U.N. agency said on Monday, calling for more funds to salvage local food production as millions go hungry.

More Details:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/united-nations-says-syrian-agriculture-faces-a-sixteen-billion-dollar-bill-from-conflict/3795190.html>

- **Putin's Syria plan may have come back to bite him**

Yesterday's blast on the St Petersburg metro system was the worst terrorist attack outside the North Caucasus since two suicide bombers killed 32 people in Volgograd in 2013.

More Details:

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/putins-syria-plan-may-have-come-back-to-bite-him-35591785.html>

- **Kurdish National Council calls on PYD to release political prisoners**

The Kurdish National Council in Syria (KNC) on Monday called on the Democratic Union Party (PYD) to release the dozens of KNC-members that were arrested after clashes in the town of Sinjar on 3 March.

More Details:

<http://aranews.net/2017/04/kurdish-national-council-calls-pyd-release-political-prisoners/>

- **Syrian jets bomb rebel-held eastern Damascus suburbs, dozens killed**

Syrian jets on Monday bombed residential areas in the eastern countryside of Damascus killing and injuring dozens in some of the heaviest bombing raids on the main rebel enclave near the capital in months, residents and activists said.

More Details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raids-idUSKBN1752K9>

- **Vatican welcomes three more Syrian refugee families to Rome**

The Vatican has welcomed three new families of refugees from Syria.

More Details:

[http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=31192&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+CatholicWorldNewsFeatureStories+%28Catholic+World+News+%28on+CatholicCulture.org%29%29](http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=31192&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CatholicWorldNewsFeatureStories+%28Catholic+World+News+%28on+CatholicCulture.org%29%29)

- **Syria's Assad must ultimately go, says German foreign minister**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad must ultimately go. That from Germany, as EU foreign ministers discussed the country's future.

More Details:

[http://www.euronews.com/2017/04/03/syria-s-assad-must-ultimately-go-says-german-foreign-minister?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2F%2Feuropa+%28euronews+-+europa+-+en%29](http://www.euronews.com/2017/04/03/syria-s-assad-must-ultimately-go-says-german-foreign-minister?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2F%2Feuropa+%28euronews+-+europa+-+en%29)

- **Syria Dscusses with UNHCR Delegation Increasing Joint Projects**

Damasco, Apr 3 (Prensa Latina) Daraa Governor Mohammad Khaled al-Hanou discussed on Monday with the delegation of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), headed by Fadela Novak-Irons, means to increase joint projects and follow up on implementing others that target displaced families and terrorism-affected people.

More Details:

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=11170&SEO=syria-dscusses-with-unhcr-delegation-increasing-joint-projects>

### 3. IRAN

- **JCPOA Should Serve Resistance Economy: Iran's Zarif**

A top priority for Iran's Foreign Ministry is to make the most of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to achieve the country's economic purposes in the context of the Resistance Economy grand plan, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/04/04/1369733/jcpoa-should-serve-resistance-economy-iran-s-zarif>

- **Ties with Latvia progressing on all fronts**

Iran's FM Zarif while noting the visit of some Iranian officials to Latvia in recent years, said relations between the two countries are progressing nicely in all areas.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124554/Ties-with-Latvia-progressing-on-all-fronts>

- **Iran trade transactions with EU, China record major increase**

Recent statistics show major rise in Iran trade transactions with member states of the European Union (EU) and China.

More Details:

<http://iran-daily.com/News/190189.html>

- **A Timeline for Iran's Upcoming Presidential, Local Elections**

Iranians will go to the polls on May 19 to take part in the country's 12th presidential election and also to elect members of local city and village councils for the fifth time.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/wired/2017/04/iran-presidential-local-elections/>

- **Iranian embassy in London to help beaten teenager**

Iran's embassy in London slammed the racist attack on an Iranian teenager in Croydon, Southern London, announcing it will provide required aid to the beaten teenager to be recovered soon.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82481290/>

- **Iran condemns St. Petersburg deadly terrorist attacks**

Iran strongly condemned Monday terrorist attack in Russia's St. Petersburg subway stations, Tasnim news agency reported.

More Details:

[http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-04/04/content\\_40553900.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-04/04/content_40553900.htm)

- **Tehran, Berlin sign MoU on joint water research**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Iran and Germany in the field of conducting joint research on water.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124552/Tehran-Berlin-sign-MoU-on-joint-water-research>

- **Iran Strives to Sustain Economic Recovery**

Heading for the Iranian presidential election in May, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has much to feel good about.

More Details:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/economy-business-and-markets/61713/iran-strives-to-sustain-economic-recovery>

- **Tunisia denies praising Iran's role in protecting the Islamic world from Israel**

The Tunisian presidency has denied Iranian media reports that during a visit by an Iranian Minister to Tunis, President Béji Kaid Essebsi praised Iran for protecting the Islamic world against Israel.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170403-tunisia-denies-praising-irans-role-in-protecting-the-islamic-world-from-israel/>

- **Members of European Parliament condemn Iran and call for Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe's release**

A cross-party group of almost 50 MEPs have signed a letter calling for the Iranian government to end the 'inhumane conditions' for dual national prisoners, including West Hampstead mum Nazanin.

More Details:

[http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/health/members\\_of\\_european\\_parliament\\_condemn\\_iran\\_and\\_calls\\_for\\_nazanin\\_zaghari\\_ratcliffe\\_s\\_release\\_1\\_4960558](http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/health/members_of_european_parliament_condemn_iran_and_calls_for_nazanin_zaghari_ratcliffe_s_release_1_4960558)

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **UNSC won't Focus on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict under Nikki Haley Presidency**

Instead, the discussion will revolve around issues such as Iran's support for terrorism, the Syrian crisis, Hezbollah and Hamas among others, Haley explained during a press briefing on Monday.

More Details

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/UNSC-will-not-discuss-Israeli-Palestinian-conflict-under-Nikki-Haley-presidency-486035>

- **Mainstream Media Distorts reality on Israeli settlements**

Yesterday, Israel's government approved construction of a new settlement in Judea and Samaria (aka West Bank). Media outlets CNN, BBC and the NY Times wasted no time publishing stories that distort the truth, if not outright lie. These mistakes range from offering a false impression of reality to actually getting facts wrong. Such elementary mistakes expose the disconnect between mainstream media outlets and basic truths of the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

More Details

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/266290/mainstream-media-distorts-reality-israeli-gideon-israel>

- **Two Border Police officers indicted of attacking a Palestinian in Jerusalem**

Police Internal Affairs filed an indictment against two former Border Police officers who attacked an unarmed Palestinian who was suspected of being a terrorist.

More Details

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4944860,00.html>

- **Palestinian prisoners threaten hunger strike**

Security prisoners from both Fatah and Hamas, lead by Marwan Barghouti, issue 13 demands to security officials, including access to phones and easing restrictions on family visits. For the first time in years, thousands of Palestinian prisoners incarcerated in Israeli jails are threatening to initiate a mass hunger strike.

More Details

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4944847,00.html>

- **HRW: Israel denying human rights workers access to Gaza**

Israel has been barring entry to and from the besieged Gaza Strip for human rights workers and researchers, according to a new report by international rights organisation, Human Rights Watch (HRW). "For the last two decades, Israel has kept the strip mostly closed off," with exceptions for humanitarian circumstances, Sari Bashi, Israel and Palestine advocacy director at HRW, told Al Jazeera.

More Details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/04/hrw-israel-denying-human-rights-workers-access-gaza-170403112527308.html>

- **Israeli troops close roads west of Nablus after shots fired towards illegal settlement**

Israeli forces closed all roads surrounding the illegal Israeli settlement of Shave Shomron in the northern occupied West Bank on Monday evening, after shots were fired towards settlement property.

More Details

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776256>

- **New Israeli settlement undermines hope for political solution**

Arab member of Knesset, Ahmed Tibi, said that the new settlement plan announced by the Israeli government that undermines any hopes for a political solution of the Palestinian issue and establishing an independent Palestinian state. Speaking to Qatar News Agency, Tibi urged the international community to take responsibility to oppose to Israel's settlement expansions. Tibi said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to announce the new settlements on the eve of Land Day and after the 28th Arab Summit reflects Israel's provocative policies.

More Details

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/543088/New-Israeli-settlement-undermines-hope-for-politic>

- **The Palestinian Mandela Is Organised To Strike**

Political prisoner Marwan Barghouti and hundreds of other Palestinian prisoners are to commence a hunger strike on April 17 if Israeli authorities do not improve jail conditions. Fadwa Barghouti, head of the campaign to Free Marwan Barghouti and All Palestinian Political Prisoners, solicitor to and wife

of Marwan, has stated she hopes for a resolution before the strike starts if Israeli authorities agree to three key demands: Greater access to telephones (that the prisoners accept will be monitored) in order to maintain better contact with the outside world.

More Details

[http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-87c6-The-Palestinian-Mandela-is-organised-to-strike#.WONNq\\_nyhac](http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-87c6-The-Palestinian-Mandela-is-organised-to-strike#.WONNq_nyhac)

- **Israel blocking rights workers' access to Gaza**

Israel is blocking rights activists' access to and from the Gaza Strip, hampering their work in the Palestinian enclave run by Islamist movement Hamas, Human Rights Watch said on Monday.

More Details

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/israel-blocking-rights-workers%E2%80%99-access-gaza-%E2%80%94-hrw>

- **Israeli police officer who assaulted several Palestinians in Jerusalem resigns**

The Israeli police officer who was caught on video violently assaulting and injuring several Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem last month has resigned, Israeli news website Ynet reported on Monday.

More Details

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=776253>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Hariri to Meet Merkel in Germany after France Visit**

After meeting French President Françoise Hollande in France, Prime Minister Saad Hariri arrived in Berlin Monday evening for talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, his media office said.

More Details

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/227973-hariri-to-meet-merkel-in-germany-after-france-visit>

- **Hezbollah Cements Control of Lebanon With Beirut Drug Raids**

The Iran-backed terrorist group Hezbollah recently raided drug houses in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Beirut, underlining its increasing entanglement with the Lebanese government.

More Details

<http://www.thetower.org/4814oc-hezbollah-cements-control-of-lebanon-with-beirut-drug-raids/>

- **Lebanon displaces Syrian refugees, forces them to close businesses**

Following new labour laws that have been subject to global condemnation, Syrian refugees across Lebanon are being evicted and their businesses are being shut down. The mayor of the Lebanese municipality of Miniara, Tony Abboud told local media that that he plans on expelling Syrian refugees if the organisations that had promised to sponsor them do not cover the full cost of hosting the refugees.

More Details

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/4/4/lebanon-displaces-syrian-refugees-forces-them-to-close-businesses>

- **Terror Group Getting Training in Ain el-Hilweh**

The security situation in the southern Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Hilweh is worrisome after reports said that groups from the militant organization of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis is receiving military training inside the camp, al-Jourhouria daily reported on Tuesday.

More Details

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/227976-repport-terror-group-receiving-training-in-ain-el-hilweh>

- **Hollande Awards Hariri High-Level Legion, Vows to Support Lebanon**

In his first official visit to Europe since he returned to the Grand Serail following Lebanon's presidential elections, Prime Minister Saad Hariri arrived in Paris on Monday before heading later to Berlin and Brussels. Hariri's presence in Europe is important due to his participation in the International Summit for supporting the future of Syria and the region to be held in Brussels this week.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/michelabunajm/news-middle-east/hollande-awards-hariri-high-level-legion-vows-support-lebanon>

- **Saudi support key to Jordan's economic recovery**

One cannot visit Jordan without hearing the latest mutterings about austerity measures. Jordan's prime minister recently appeared on national TV, announcing a cut in public salaries and setting a salary ceiling.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1078701>

- **Trump prepares for critical week of diplomacy**

President Donald Trump faces his most critical week of statesmanship so far -- and it will reflect sharp changes of direction he has already wrought in US foreign policy. Trump will also have talks on Wednesday with another key US Middle Eastern ally, King Abdullah II of Jordan, which are likely to focus on the campaign against ISIS that the Trump administration has escalated across the Jordanian border in Syria and Iraq.

More Details

<http://www.wdsu.com/article/trump-prepares-for-critical-week-of-diplomacy/9221806>

- **At White house, Jordan King to present Arabs' view on peace**

Jordan's King Abdullah II will be able to deliver an Arab consensus on Mideast peace when he meets with President Donald Trump at the White House on Wednesday, after a recent summit hosted by the monarch renewed an Arab offer of recognition of Israel in exchange for Palestinian statehood.

More Details

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_JORDAN\\_TRUMP?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-04-04-02-11-22](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_JORDAN_TRUMP?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-04-04-02-11-22)

- **King Abdullah II, May Discuss Military Cooperation, Fighting Terrorism**

Jordan's King Abdullah II met on Monday with visiting UK Prime Minister Theresa May, with whom he discussed bilateral relations, as well as international and regional developments, a statement by the Jordanian Royal Court said. Talks also touched on promoting cooperation in various fields, especially military coordination and fighting terrorism.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/mohamed-al-daameh/news-middle-east/king-abdullah-ii-may-discuss-military-cooperation-fighting-terrorism>

- **UK to offer Jordan more trainers in anti-Daesh strikes**

British Prime Minister Theresa May met Jordan's King Abdallah at the start of a three-day trip to the kingdom and Saudi Arabia focused on security and post-Brexit trade efforts. In Jordan, May was expected to announce that British military trainers will be sent to help the country's air force fight Daesh.

More Details

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1078726/middle-east>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Qatar Restarts the Development Of World's Biggest Gas Field**

Qatar has lifted a self-imposed moratorium on development of the world's biggest natural gas field, the chief executive of Qatar Petroleum (QP) said on Monday, as the world's top LNG exporter looks to see off an expected rise in competition.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1078811/business-economy>

- **US Launched 20 Strikes in Yemen Since Late February: Pentagon**

The United States military claims that it has launched 20 airstrike against terrorist positions in war ravaged Yemen since February 28. The Pentagon vowed Monday to continue the fight as the impoverished country continued suffering from a massive aerial aggression by neighboring Saudi Arabia, backed by a number of African and Persian Gulf Arab states.

More details:

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/04/04/516635/US-launches-20-airstrikes-in-Yemen->

- **Arab Coalition Destroys Weapon Depot in Beihan, Shabwah in Yemen**

The Arab coalition jetfighters destroyed on Monday a weapons depot belonging to the Houthi and Saleh militias in the Beihan region of Shabwah Governorate, Yemen.

More details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302606795>

- **Bahrain's Crown Prince Meets Malaysian Defence Minister, Highlights Defence Collaboration**

Bahrain's Crown Prince, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who met Malaysian Minister of Defence, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, at Gudaibiya Palace on Monday highlighted the steady growth of defence collaboration between the Kingdom and Asian countries, Bahrain News Agency (BNA) reported.

More details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1344318>

- **Bahrain's King Approves Military Trials for Civilians**

Bahrain's King Hamad on Monday approved a constitutional amendment granting military courts the right to try civilians accused of terrorism, state news agency BNA said.

More details:

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/bahrain-s-king-approves-military-trials-for-civilians-669457.html>

- **Saudi Regime behind Intensified Security Measures in Bahrain: Activist**

The president of the Bahraini German Organization for Human Rights and Democracy (BGO) slammed the Saudi regime for its continued interference in Bahrain's internal affairs and said the Kingdom is behind Manama's heavy-handed crackdown on the opposition.

More details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/04/03/1369013/saudi-regime-behind-intensified-security-measures-in-bahrain-activist>

- **Series of US-Saudi airstrikes on Saada**

The US-Saudi aggression warplane waged a series of strikes on several areas of Saada province overnight, an official told Saba on Tuesday. The war planes hit Al Matajaraf and Al Malahidh areas of al Dhaher district five times, as waged three raids on Al Buqa area of Kutaf district and other two raid on Al Zamah Mandabah areas of Baqim district.

More details:

<http://www.sabanews.net/en/news461011.htm>

- **Government Forces Make Gains in Yemen's North**

Forces aligned with the internationally-recognised president of Yemen, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, have stormed some neighbourhoods in Medi and captured a major road that connects the city with Haradh city in the northern province of Hajja, a Yemen army spokesperson told Gulf News on Monday.

More details:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/government-forces-make-gains-in-yemen-s-north-1.2005149>

- **UNSC Reform Urged**

The Arab States Group in the United Nations has reiterated call a proper representation of Arab countries in the UN Security Council (UNSC). The Arab countries are seeking proper representation of all geographic and regional blocs in the UNSC, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories, Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Nations Mansour Al-Otaibi said at a meeting for intergovernmental negotiations for reforming the UN Security Council held as part of the UN General Assembly 71st session.

More details:

<http://bna.bh/portal/en/news/778866>

- **Qatar Plans New Project to Boost Gas Output by 10pc**

Qatar Petroleum plans to develop a new gas project in the southern sector of the North Field and that it will commence work on the project's details over the next few months, said the company's president and CEO Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi.

More details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN\\_322871.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN_322871.html)

## 7. EGYPT

- **Controversial Draft Law Expands Al-Sissi's Control of the Egypt's Judiciary**

Egypt's judges are up in arms over a draft law expanding the president's control of the judiciary. Speaking at news conference on Sunday, the judges said that the bill would undermine their independence and violate the principle of separation of powers. They termed the bill as "suspicious" and "unconstitutional."

More details :

<http://gulfnews.com/news/mena/egypt/controversial-draft-law-expands-al-sissi-s-control-of-egypt-s-judiciary-1.2004874>

- **Trump Pledges His Support of Egypt**

U.S. President Donald Trump has pledged his administration's support for Egypt's effort to defeat terrorism and violent extremist groups. During a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi Monday at the White House, Trump also spoke of his plans to increase spending on U.S. defense to meet the terrorist threat.

More details:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/trump-offers-his-support-of-egypt/3795225.html>

- **Analysis: Sisi Visits Washington for Military Aids**

Egyptian President Abdul Fatah al-Sisi left the White House on Monday after almost two hour-long talks with his US counterpart Donald Trump. Sisi is the first Egyptian president to officially visit Washington after eight years of strained ties with the Obama administration.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/analysis-sisi-visits-washington-military-aid-1015043719>

- **Cabinet to Provide Parliament with All Necessary Documents on the Red Sea Islands: Egypt's PM**

Egypt's PM Sherif Ismail said on Sunday that the cabinet is ready to provide parliament with all relevant documents on the sovereignty status of the two Red Sea islands of Tiran and Sanafir to help the legislature reach a decision on the April 2016 Egyptian-Saudi border redemarcation deal.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/262168/Egypt/Politics-/Cabinet-to-provide-parliament-with-all-necessary-d.aspx>

- **Pope Francis to Visit Egypt on 28 April**

Pope Francis, the 266th and current Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, will meet with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and heads of the main religious institutions in Cairo on 28 and 29 April, the Egyptian presidency announced Monday.

More details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/04/03/pope-francis-visit-egypt-28-april/>

- **Brotherhood to Vote on Reconciliation with Sisi Regime**

The Shura Council of the Muslim Brotherhood group will hold a meeting this weekend to vote on a document to reconcile with the current regime in exchange for the Brotherhood's return to political and social life, as was the case under former president Hosni Mubarak.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/brotherhood-vote-reconciliation-sisi-regime>

- **Trump, Sissi Said to Plan Peace Summit during Their Meeting**

Among the issues reportedly discussed during Monday's 150-minute meeting between US President Donald Trump and his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, were "ideas" for a possible Israeli-Palestinian peace summit to be held in Washington this coming summer.

More details:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-sissi-said-to-plan-peace-summit-during-their-meeting/>

- **Egypt, Jordan Sign Gas Supply Deals**

Egypt's Minister of Petroleum Tarek El-Molla has signed four gas deals with Jordanian officials on the sidelines of the third Jordan International Energy Summit held on Monday in Amman.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/262189/Business/Economy/Egypt,-Jordan-sign-gas-supply-deals-.aspx>

- **Enabling Egypt's President Sisi, an Enemy of Human Rights**

American presidents must sometimes deal with unsavory foreign leaders in pursuit of America's national interest. But that doesn't require inviting them to the White House and lavishing them with praise and promises of unconditional support.

More details:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/04/opinion/enabling-egypts-president-sisi-an-enemy-of-human-rights.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/04/opinion/enabling-egypts-president-sisi-an-enemy-of-human-rights.html?_r=0)

- **Sisi Saves Israel from International Boycott, Says Former Israeli General**

A former spokesman of the Israeli army has said that the reconciliation projects proposed by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi save Israel from an international boycott, Rassd.com reported on

Sunday. Brigadier General Avi Benayahu's comments were published initially by Hebrew-language Maariv.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170403-al-sisi-saves-israel-from-international-boycott-says-former-israeli-general/>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Iran Regime's Lies Citing Tunisian President and Algerian Prime Minister, Ridicules of Instability and Growing Isolation**

Tunisian Presidential Spokesman Reza Buqazi denied the remarks attributed by Iran regime to Tunisian President al-Baji Qaed al-Sabasi in his meeting with Tehran's Minister of Culture and Guidance.

More details:

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-world/22464-iran-regime-s-lies-citing-tunisian-president-and-algerian-prime-minister-ridicules-of-instability-and-growing-isolation>

- **Algeria obtains Ottoman-era documents at French auction**

Algerian authorities on Monday announced their acquisition of 600 historical maps and manuscripts dating back to the country's Ottoman period.

More details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/algeria-obtains-ottoman-era-documents-at-french-auction/787097>

- **National Sub-contracting Show: Sixty companies express needs**

About sixty exhibitors from various fields of industry partake in the 4th National Inverted Show of Sub-contracting (SANIST 2017), inaugurated on Monday in the Exhibition Centre of Algiers.

More details:

<http://en.aps.dz/economy/17594-national-sub-contracting-show-sixty-companies-express-needs>

- **Saleh: The dialogue will be inside Libya**

The head of the House of Representatives (HoR), Ageela Saleh, said, on Monday, that the HoR discussed the national constants that should be included in the Political Agreement (PA), such as the reformation of the Presidential Council (PC), which must consist of three members only.

More details:

<http://libyaprospect.com/index.php/2017/04/03/saleh-the-dialogue-will-be-inside-libya/>

- **EU Extends Sanctions on 3 Prominent Libyan Politicians**

The European Union on Friday extended sanctions against three Libyan politicians, citing concerns they are thwarting efforts to form a democratic government and violating a 2015 peace deal.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/khalid-mahmoud/news-middle-east/eu-extends-sanctions-3-prominent-libyan-politicians>

- **Jordan to Appoint New Ambassador to Morocco**

Jordan has announced it would appoint a new ambassador to Morocco to replace Ali Kayed, according to a communiqué issued by the Jordanian royal cabinet on Monday.

More details:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/04/212864/jordan-appoint-new-ambassador-morocco/>

- **Tunisians protest, ban Libyans from entering Dehiba border crossing over end of fuel smuggling**

Several Tunisian nationals and residents of Dehiba town in Tunisia, which is a border crossing town with Libya, have gone out in violent protests blocking the crossing and banning Libyan cars from entering Tunisia.

More details:

<http://www.libyanexpress.com/tunisians-protest-ban-libyans-from-entering-dehiba-border-crossing-over-end-of-fuel-smuggling/>

- **Morocco's newly-appointed envoy calls on Fatemi**

Newly-appointed ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune paid his maiden courtesy call on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi here on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.app.com.pk/moroccos-newly-appointed-envoy-calls-on-fatemi/>

- **Tobruk parliament sets preconditions for political talks**

The House of Representatives (HoR) has set preconditions to return to the table of UN-sponsored Libyan political dialogue. In session in the eastern city of Tobruk on Monday, 60 HoR members voted in favour of resuming the political talks with rival institutions to settle the Libyan crisis, but only if preconditions were met.

More details:

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/tobruk-parliament-sets-preconditions-political-talks>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Want to learn from Australia’s agro experience: Ghani**

President Ashraf Ghani has urged the Australian government to share its experience in the agriculture sector with Afghanistan and get maximum advantage of existing opportunities in his country.

More details:

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2017/04/04/want-learn-australia%E2%80%99s-agro-experience-ghani>

- **69 Taliban and Daesh Militants Killed In Afghan Operations**

The 201 Selab Military Corps said in a statement on Monday that at least 34 Daesh militants were killed in an airstrike in Nangarhar.

More details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/69-taliban-and-daesh-militants-killed-afghan-operations>

- **Ghani reacts at Russia bombing saying combined efforts must to defeat terrorism**

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in reaction to St Petersburg bombing in Russia has said combined efforts are must to defeat terrorism.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/ghani-reacts-at-russia-bombing-saying-combined-efforts-must-to-defeat-terrorism-02503>

- **7 militants killed, 19 injured in N Afghan clashes**

Seven militants were killed and 19 others wounded in two separate clashes in northern Afghanistan, said a military statement on Tuesday.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/124558/7-militants-killed-19-injured-in-N-Afghan-clashes>

- **Pakistan, China, Afghanistan dominated Mattis-Doval meet, says US official**

Presence of terror safe havens in Pakistan, aggressive Chinese behaviour and the Afghanistan situation dominated last month's meeting between US Defence Secretary Gen (ret'd) James Mattis and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, according to an American defence official.

More details:

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/pakistan-china-afghanistan-dominated-mattis-doval-meet-says-us-official-3366566.html>

- **US to be part of efforts to de-escalate India-Pakistan tensions: Nikki Haley**

The Trump administration will try and "find its place" to be a part of efforts to de-escalate tensions between India and Pakistan, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said, while also suggesting that President Donald Trump may also participate in the process.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1324811/us-to-be-part-of-efforts-to-de-escalate-india-pakistan-tensions-nikki-haley>

- **Maleeha Lodhi criticises 'nuclear doublespeak' at UN**

Pakistan's representative to the United Nations Maleeha Lodhi said that some nuclear weapons states are intent upon upgrading and modernising their inventories while preaching non-proliferation to others.

More details:

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/04-Apr-17/maleeha-lodhi-criticises-nuclear-doublespeak-at-un>

- **38th death anniversary of ZA Bhutto being observed today**

The 38th death anniversary of former prime minister and founding leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is being observed on Tuesday (today).

More details:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/04/04/38th-death-anniversary-of-za-bhutto-being-observed-today/>

- **We remember how Pakistan helped us fight terrorism: Somali ambassador**

Pakistan has always been there for its Somali brothers. We remember how the Pakistani government helped us fight terrorism.

More details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1373991/remember-pakistan-helped-us-fight-terrorism-somali-ambassador/>

- **Pakistan keeps mum over Iran envoy's remarks**

The Foreign Office has avoided an immediate reaction to media statements by Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Honardoost who expressed reservations about Pakistan clearing former army chief Gen Raheel Sharif to lead a 39-nation military alliance put together by Saudi Arabia.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1324711/pakistan-keeps-mum-over-iran-envoys-remarks>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Turkish jets kill 4 PKK terrorists in northern Iraq**

At least 4 PKK terrorists were killed in airstrikes carried out by Turkish jets in northern Iraq, the military said Tuesday. The operation was launched Tuesday morning on the PKK targets in northern Iraq's Sinat and Haftanin regions, the General Staff said, adding the jets also destroyed shelters and two weapon emplacements belonging to the terror group.

More Details:

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/turkey/187350/erdogan-to-putin-syria-chemical-attack-unacceptable>

- **Erdogan to Putin: Syria chemical attack 'unacceptable'**

Chemical attacks on Syrian opposition-held Idlib were “inhuman” and “unacceptable”, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Tuesday. According to the Turkish presidency, Erdogan held a telephone conversation with the Russian leader to discuss Tuesday's incident.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/turkey/erdogan-to-putin-syria-chemical-attack-unacceptable/788726>

*\*This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler**. 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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