

Strikes target Houthi sites in Yemeni capital, Coalition says

Author:

Arab News

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Sat, 2022-02-12 01:40

RIYADH: The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen has struck targets in Sanaa, Al Ekhbariya reported early on Saturday.

The strikes came after Thursday's drone attack on Saudi Arabia's Abha Airport by the Iran-back Houthi militia.

The attack, which injured 12 people, has been widely condemned.

The coalition asked civilians not to gather around the targeted sites in the Yemeni capital.



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12 civilians injured in Houthi drone strike on Saudi Arabia's Abha airport
International organizations condemn Houthi attack on Saudi Arabia

[Prince William's United for Wildlife signs cooperation deal with Dubai Airports](#)

Author:

Sat, 2022-02-12 00:07

LONDON: Britain's Prince William, founder of United for Wildlife, was present for the signing of an agreement with Dubai Airports to prevent the illegal trade in wildlife, during his historic visit to the UAE, state news agency WAM reported on Friday.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, said by signing the "Buckingham Palace Declaration" the international transit hub was committed to thwarting any operations aimed at the illegal trade in wildlife, which is a global issue that ranks among the top five global crimes for profit.

He said the Duke of Cambridge had always been keen to launch global initiatives aimed at preserving the natural environment and combating the illegal trade of wild animals.

And also to see this police car...! pic.twitter.com/BKh4Ss9ECc

– The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (@KensingtonRoyal) [February 11, 2022](#)

Griffiths also said Dubai's location is a link to all parts of the world, and the emirate has a strategic position as a center for international trade, so strengthening cooperation between Dubai Airports, DP World and Dubai Customs will constitute a strong impetus in the fight against trafficking issues to eliminate the illegal movement of wildlife across borders.

He continued: "Dubai Airports will provide the necessary support and jointly coordinate with partners and relevant authorities from all over the world to share data, find and develop strategic solutions and set policies that contribute to addressing this international issue because of its critical importance."

Meanwhile, Prince William attended the first-ever Earthshot Prize Innovation Showcase at the DP World Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai

Working together with [@EarthshotPrize](#) to inspire optimism & action to scale eco-innovations that will put our planet on a sustainable path and protect our world for generations to come.

Thank you [@DP_World](#) for hosting and for your continued support of our Finalists, & the Prize. pic.twitter.com/DM4kPjKGgv

– The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (@KensingtonRoyal) [February 10, 2022](#)

Prince William, was joined by Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed, chairman of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, CEO of Emirates Group and chairman of Dubai Airports, and Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World. He praised an announcement of a £1 million (\$1.355 million) investment in two Earthshot Prize finalists, designed to scale their work in the UAE and Middle East.

“The Earthshot mission is more than just a prize. It’s a global team effort to spark urgent optimism and game-changing innovation to transform our future. I’m inviting all of you to join the Earthshot team and support our Finalists – the eco-innovators – to take their solutions to scale,” said Prince William.

Queen Rania of Jordan, who participated via video message, said: “Every sector has a role to play public, private, philanthropic, and the bottom line could not be clearer: If we work together, everybody wins.”

Inside the pavilion is the promotion of our advancements in innovation, space, and artificial intelligence.

It’s one of the largest, self-built spaces at the expo, creating a global collective message projecting unity.

pic.twitter.com/43mDAQ06Rq

– The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (@KensingtonRoyal) [February 10, 2022](#)

With the funds, the finalists will begin collaborative work on reef restoration in the region, including scoping for the first commercial land-based coral farm for reef restoration in the Middle East.

This investment will scale their innovative work creating panels that mimic natural habitats like rock pools and mangrove roots, which are fitted to coastal sea defenses to return marine life to coastal shorelines.

DP World’s commitment will fund the design and installation of the largest living seawall on the planet adapted to support the native marine life of the UAE and wider region.

“Our business is connected to the oceans and their protection is an important priority across all our operations as part of our sustainable business commitments evidenced by our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040,” said Bin Sulayem.





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Prince William focuses on conservation during first UAE trip
Saudi crown prince and UK PM discuss relations

[Hundreds rally in rare southern Syria protest](#)

Author:

Sat, 2022-02-12 00:29

BEIRUT: Hundreds took to the streets of a southern Syrian city on Friday to demand better living conditions and democracy in a rare protest inside regime-held areas, a war monitor said.

More than 300 protesters, gathering for a fifth consecutive day in Sweida after authorities cut off 600,000 families from its subsidies program, staged their biggest rally yet, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"We want a civil, just, democratic state," a young man told a cheering crowd of demonstrators in video footage broadcast by local media network Suwayda24. The footage shows protesters raising the flag of the Druze, a religious minority whose heartland is Sweida.

In one video, an elderly man in traditional Druze costume lamented price hikes.

"We cannot live or get our rights, we don't have any gas or diesel," he told the crowd. "We want to live in a homeland that guarantees our dignity and our rights."

The rally went ahead despite a heavy deployment of security forces, who sealed off main roads.

Earlier this month, the government excluded a large number of people from its subsidies program, in a country where 90 percent of the population is poor. Those who were cut off lost access to lower-priced food and oil, a move that triggered rare protests and criticism from within government-held areas of Syria.

Most protesters took to the streets for the first time in their lives to demand better living conditions, while others demanded democracy, Nour Radwan of Suwayda24 told AFP.

Smaller protests over similar issues were held in Sweida in 2020.

But the Druze, who made up less than three percent of Syria's pre-war population, largely kept out of the country's conflict. Sweida has been mostly spared by the fighting in the decade-old war, and only faced sporadic jihadist attacks which were repelled. Syria has grappled with an economic crisis compounded by Western sanctions, the Covid-19 pandemic and a rapid devaluation of the local currency.



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UK women, children trapped in Syria camps failed by London: ReportSyria's security forces raid journalist's home for criticizing Assad

[Protesters take to Sudan's streets again, decrying coup and arrests](#)

Author:

Fri, 2022-02-11 02:31

KHARTOUM: Sudanese protesters marched in neighborhoods across the capital and the country on Thursday in protest at October's military coup and a wave of political detentions.

The takeover ended a partnership between the military and civilian political parties, drawing global condemnation and plunging Sudan into political and economic turmoil.

Protests organized by resistance committees have drawn hundreds of thousands of people, and at least 79 have been killed and more than 2,000 injured in crackdowns.

On Thursday, hundreds of protesters diverged from planned routes to renew efforts to march on the presidential palace, but were met with tear gas and a heavy security presence a little more than a kilometer from their goal.

"We will continue demonstrating in the streets until we bring down military rule and bring back democracy," said 22-year-old university student Salah Hamid.

Other protests took place across the Nile in the cities of Omdurman and Bahri, and farther away in Gadarif and Sennar.

The US Embassy in Sudan said on Twitter that acts of civil disobedience were expected to take place in Khartoum and other states, warning of decentralized demonstrations, road blockages, and business closures. The embassy instructed Americans to avoid crowds and demonstrations and to keep a low profile.

Sudan's long-standing economic woes have been exacerbated since last month by the blockade of the Northern Artery, a key route for trucks carrying exports from Sudan into Egypt.

That protest, originally against a rise in electricity prices for farmers, has expanded to reject military rule and demand more support for both farmers and traders, and has trapped hundreds of Egyptian trucks in Sudan.

While some protesters in Khartoum said they were opposing a normalization of relations with Israel that has been spearheaded by the military, others marched for the more than 2,000 people who lawyers say have been arrested since the coup.

More than 100 remain in jail, one lawyer said on Thursday.



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[Sudan coup](#)

Sudan arrests leading anti-coup bloc figures
Sudanese envoy in Israel to promote ties, source tells Reuters

[200 Jordanian phones linked to Israeli hacking scandal](#)

Thu, 2022-02-10 23:53

AMMAN: Almost 200 phones belonging to Jordanian journalists, activists and members of the royal court were among the thousands targeted in the hacking scandal linked to Israeli companies, a local news agency has revealed.

Samir Hiari, the publisher of Ammon News, said he was alerted to the breaches by a Reuters journalist who was doing a report on the subject.

The report revealed that Apple had sent messages about a possible security breach to several Jordanians, including lawyer Hala Ahed, social media influencer Deema Amad and Senator Mustafa Hamarneh.

“Once we collected the info we discovered that a little bit less than 200 – among them royal court and Olympic committee members and activists – were victims of the hacking, which included scrapping everything on their phones, including WhatsApp content, messages, photos, videos and text messages,” he said.

Ammon News reporter Ahmad Hiari quoted a US source as saying it was still unclear if “any local parties cooperated with Tel Aviv in the (phone) hacking.”

Rana Sabbagh, co-founder and former executive director of Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, told Arab News how she discovered that her phones had been hacked.

“A friend told me that they received a message from Apple ... so I decided to send both my phones to OCCRP data security experts to be tested.”

Sabbagh, who is now a senior editor at the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, said the forensic test showed the two phones had been compromised.

“We found that they had been hacked in July 2020 and in April 2021. Another colleague from the same organization discovered their phone was hacked in September 2021,” she said.

Sabbagh, a veteran Jordanian reporter and former chief editor at the Jordan Times, said that the dates were important as it was just before the publication of the Pandora Papers.

“It is really worrisome ... we know generally that we are being always checked but what upsets me is that I don’t want my sources to be hurt.

“It is upsetting when you discover that your entire life has been invaded in a mega way. They took away all our documents, photos and videos. I am not sure if the attack is local or international.”

Hiari said that he was worried about how the hacked information might be used.

“I know that there is always an effort to listen to our phones. This action is inhuman and illegal and we know this happens. I am worried about how the info is being used.

“I am worried about people being blackmailed, we need international protection,” he added.

Neither Hiari or Sabbagh would say if they thought local parties were involved in the hacking of the Jordanian phones.

Hiari said: “We don’t have any information about local parties, but our international contacts assured us that the software that was used against Jordanian phones was used and bought from external countries.”

Botrus Mansour, a Palestinian lawyer and citizen of Israel, told Arab News that the Israeli-created Pegasus software was part of Israel's security ecosystem.

The system had been used not only used against Palestinians and others around the world but also to hack the phones of Israelis, including directors of ministries and mayors without any legal warrants or criminal suspicion, he said.

"The occupation has corrupted Israeli morality inside Israel, and what happens in the occupied territories is reflected inside Israel itself and has caused a major erosion of Israeli democratic values even against Israelis – a phenomena accelerated by the attempts of the last Israeli prime minister to escape court."

Wadie Abu Nassar, a Haifa-based commentator on Israeli politics, told Arab News that Israel had crossed moral red lines before.

"Espionage is an old habit in Israel," he said. "The red line was crossed long ago but it is revealed now and with an indication it was systematically used against everybody."



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Jordanian journalist protests enter 10th dayUS, UK cybersecurity agencies
disclose hacking methods used by Russian spy group