

FILIPINA ARRESTED IN SAUDI ARABIA OVER SUICIDE VESTS

Suspected of helping a Syrian to make explosive belts for suicide attacks

Riyadh

A Filipina has been arrested in Saudi Arabia on suspicion of helping a Syrian to make explosive belts for suicide attacks in the kingdom, the interior ministry said yesterday.

The Syrian, identified as Mohamed Al Barazi, is suspected of turning the house they shared in the Saudi capital into a bomb factory,

the ministry spokesman said. Barazi is also accused of having a second house in Riyadh, which he ran as a safe house for militants on the run.

He was detained in a police ambush in the capital on Wednesday, the spokesman said.

Police then raided the suspected bomb factory, which they found had been booby-trapped.

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Lady Gioi Aban Bali Nang (R) and Mohamed Al Barazi (Middle East eye)

The Filipina was named by the official Saudi Press Agency as Lady Gioi Aban Bali Nang

and was said to have gone missing from her employer 15 months ago. She was said to

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be wearing a suicide vest at the time of her arrest.

After the house had been made safe, police recovered two explosives belts, 10 containers of bomb-making materials and two firearms, the ministry said.

Asked on state television whether Barazi was suspected of links to the Islamic State, the spokesman said authorities

“did not yet have sufficient evidence to make any direct connection with this terrorist group.”

A series of attacks claimed by IS in Saudi Arabia this year have killed dozens of people.

In July, authorities announced that they had detained 431 people, most of them Saudis, on suspicion of involvement in an IS cell.

UAE rejects Iran's interference

New York

The threat of terrorist organisations, most notably of Daesh and Al Qaeda-affiliated groups, transcends geographical boundaries and is a risk not only for this region, but also for all states and communities, UAE Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan said as he delivered his country's speech at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The minister also stressed that UAE has played an effective role in international arena to help the affected countries to confront these threats.

“UAE is committed to supporting regional and international efforts aimed at combating extremism and terrorism through cooperation and coordination with regional and international partners,” Al Nahyan said.

He also commended Al Azhar institution for its longstanding tradition



Shaikh Abdullah

in confronting extremist ideologies.

“The recent political and economic achievements of the Government of Egypt are major steps towards its recovery, and positively assist the recovery and stability of the region,” the foreign minister added.

Talking about Yemen, Al Nahyan said, “We seek, with the international community, to restore the political process in Yemen in accordance with the agreed parameters, most importantly the GCC initiative and its implementation mechanism.”

“The United Arab Emirates stands firm with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against any Iranian attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the Arab States,” he said

“Iran's record does not qualify it to speak about the safety of the Hajj pilgrims and human rights, nor does its policies give it the right to refer to stability issues in the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East”

The minister also affirmed UAE's continued support for the Arab Coalition led by Saudi Arabia and its commitment in enhancing the capacity of the Yemeni people to restore stability.

He further said that UAE is committed to supporting humanitarian efforts in Yemen.

Expressing UAE's deep concern over the ongoing tension and instability in Libya, Shaikh Abdullah stressed on the importance of international community in delivering humanitarian aid to the Syrian people.

“The UAE affirms its humanitarian commitment in supporting the Syrian people and alleviating their suffering,” he stressed.

On Iraq, the minister renewed UAE's support for the efforts of the Iraqi government towards achieving peace and stability and ending sectarian practices. Shaikh Abdullah

also reiterated UAE's rejection of Iran's continued occupation of UAE's three islands: Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

Moving on to the Palestinian issue, the UAE foreign minister warned about the injustice and frustration resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and the flagrant human rights violations committed.

Commenting on the Iranian President's speech at UN General Assembly, the UAE Foreign Minister said, “Iran's record does not qualify it to speak about the safety of the Hajj pilgrims and human rights, nor does its policies give it the right to refer to stability issues in the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East.”

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Kuwait to host WHO meeting

Kuwait

Kuwait will host the 62nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, Health Minister Ali Al Obaidi said.

Speaking to the press, the minister said the meeting from October 5 to 8 would be held under the patronage of Prime Minister Shaikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah.

He added that Kuwait's organisation of the meeting showcased the interest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in developing medical care in the region and also in highlighting the continuous cooperation between WHO and Kuwait, *Kuwait News Agency (Kuna)* reported.

According to WHO's Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, Health ministers and high-level representatives

of the 22 countries and territories of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, partner organisations and civil society, will take part in the session.

The four-day programme will include progress reports on polio eradication; emergency preparedness and response, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, achieving national core capacities for the deadline for implementation of the IHR, universal health coverage, regional strategy on health and the environment, the initiative on saving the lives of mothers and children, regional strategy for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems 2014-2019.

These reports provide updates on implementation of resolutions approved by the Regional Committee at previous sessions.

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