

NGO Condemn Sweden's Participation in NATO Drone Killings in Afghanistan

MOSCOW- Swedish military participation in US-led NATO drone strikes in Afghanistan is illegal and should be stopped, Swedish Doctors for Human Rights, a non-profit campaigning against war crimes, said. US media reported in September that Sweden, a non-NATO ally of the United States, was directly taking part in drone airstrikes on alleged Afghan insurgents, despite security deals that prohibited it from being involved in counter-terror operations. Sweden can provide soldiers to NATO missions in support roles. In a statement on Thursday, the Swedish NGO argued that the reported pres-



ence of Swedish officers during discussions of so-called kill orders was against Sweden's stance as a non-aligned country. The activists suggest that their revelations prove that Swedish military involvement in Afghanistan goes far beyond the level authorized by the government...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Gen. Raziq Says He is Prepared to Join Afghan Forces in Kunduz

KABUL - The provincial police chief of southern Kandahar province Gen. Abdul Raziq has said he is prepared to join Afghan forces to retake the control of areas seized by the Taliban militants. Gen. Raziq was speaking to reporters in Kandahar province as sporadic clashes still continue in parts of provincial capital of Kudzuz province after it fell to Taliban control last Monday. He said he is ready to join the Afghan forces in Kunduz if he receives instructions from the government.

Criticizing the provincial administrative and security officials for remaining reckless regarding the security situation of Kunduz city which resulted to the fall of the city to Taliban, Gen. Raziq said Kunduz is one of the key provinces of the country and called National Security Council to take immediate steps to return peace and stability in this province. Gen. Raziq rose to prominence after 2001 when he was serving as the police chief of Spin Boldak district with his activities prompting dread

among the Taliban fighters. He has imposed an uneasy peace in Kandahar province which was the birth place of the Taliban group. Being a prized target for the Taliban group, Gen. Raziq ordered the Afghan forces earlier in August last year to execute Taliban detainees who are arrested during the military operations. Gen. Raziq has escaped a number of coordinated attacks planned by Taliban to assassinate him. He was slightly injured following a...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Obama Offers Condolences for Those Killed in Afghanistan Crash

WASHINGTON - President Obama on Friday expressed his "deepest condolences" to the families of the six U.S. troops and five contractors who were killed Thursday when their plane crashed in Afghanistan. "Michelle and I extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the six U.S. Airmen and five contractors who lost their lives in a military plane crash in Jalalabad, Afghanistan yesterday," he said in a statement. Obama said they were also saddened that Afghan civilians lost

their lives in the incident. "As we mark this terrible loss of life, we are reminded of the sacrifice brave Americans and our Afghan partners make each and every day in the name of freedom and security," he said. "Their willingness to serve so selflessly will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims' families and loved ones during this difficult hour. May God bless their souls." Defense Secretary Ashton Carter also said he was saddened by the crash, and the Pentagon was still trying to

determine exactly what happened. "This is a reminder of the risks that our men and women face serving their country in remote places all over the world," he said. "Let us not forget the importance of their service, and the critical mission they died supporting." The Taliban claimed responsibility for downing the C-130 cargo plane, but military officials said they had high confidence enemy fire was not involved. The plane crashed Wednesday evening at the Jalalabad Airport in...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Families Tell of Desperate Conditions in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Families who fled Kunduz over the past few days have warned that unless the situation normalizes quickly, people still trapped in the city could face starvation. These families, who fled to Kabul, described horrific treatment meted out to the locals by the Taliban who attacked and seized control of large parts of the city in the early hours of Monday morning. They say those who had money were able to flee, but thousands who are not able to afford the exorbitant cost of transport out of the city are still in hiding. "We took ourselves out of the city in a very bad situation," one Kunduz resident said. Another Kunduz local said: "Civilians are the victims and they are trapped in the battle. We all were sleeping when Taliban attacked. People have lost all they had in the city."

"Homes have been destroyed, doctors have been killed and nothing has left in the city," a third Kunduz resident said. According to them, most people in the city are hiding in their basements and have had no food or water for days. "Where is the government, the president and Abdullah Abdullah?" a Kunduz resident shouted. "People are dying of hunger. Houses are destroyed. Why is not anyone helping us?" They say that because of ongoing clashes between the Taliban and the security forces it is too dangerous for people to leave the safety of their homes in search of basic provisions. In addition scores of civilians who are ill and injured, are holed up in the homes, and have not been able to reach hospitals for treatment. AFP reports that Kunduz is facing a humanitarian crisis, with thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire between government forces and insurgents. At least 60 people are known to have died and over 400 wounded in recent fighting. As violence spreads in neighboring Badakhshan, Takhar and Baghlan provinces, concerns are mounting that the seizure of Kunduz was merely the opening gambit in a new, bolder Taliban strategy to tighten the insurgency's grip across northern Afghanistan, reports AFP. The Taliban's offensive in Kunduz has been their biggest tactical success since 2001. (Tolonews)

Kandahar Food Zone Program Providing Alternatives to Poppy Cultivation

KANDAHAR CITY - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has executed the Food Zone Program in Kandahar which provides alternatives to poppy cultivation. From September 5 to 15 the program trained 50 people on community-based planning to support alternative to poppy cultivation training, including representatives of governor's office, local government departments, district governors, members of district development assemblies and Kandahar Food Zone's



newly hired social capital strengthening officers. These officers will facilitate, monitor and evaluate the alternative livelihood and infrastructure projects in coordination with communities and the sub-contractors. They were trained to conduct a survey in in the Zhari and

Panjwai districts to design new Infrastructure and alternative livelihood projects with recommendations from local officials. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Kandahar province remains Afghanistan's second largest pro...*(More on P4)...(14)*

UNAMA Condemns Bombing of MSF Hospital in Kunduz

KABUL - Nicholas Haysom, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), on Saturday strongly condemned the deadly airstrike on the Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) Trauma Center in Kunduz city that killed at least nine staff members and left 37 seriously wounded. In his statement, Haysom said: "I condemn in the strongest terms the tragic and devastating air strike on the Médecins sans Frontières hospital in Kunduz early

this morning, which resulted in the deaths and injury of medical personnel, patients and other civilians." "Hospitals accommodating patients and medical personnel may never be the object of attack, and international humanitarian law also prohibits the use of medical facilities for military purposes," he said. "I commend Médecins sans Frontières for their work. Our condolences are with them, their patients, family and friends." He went on to say that he reiterates his call to all parties to the conflict to respect and protect medi-

cal and humanitarian personnel and facilities. MSF on Saturday afternoon said the death toll in the airstrike was at nine MSF staff members, with 37 seriously wounded. Of these, 19 are MSF staff. However, "there are many patients and staff who remain unaccounted for", their statement read. "The numbers keep growing as we develop a clearer picture of the aftermath of this horrific bombing." The MSF condemned the deadly bombing and said "all parties to the conflict, including in Kabul and Washington, ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Pentagon Confirms 6 U.S. Soldiers Killed in Plane Crash in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon on Friday confirmed six U.S. airmen were among the 11 killed in a crash of a U.S. military transport plane in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. "I was saddened to hear about the tragic C-130 crash which took the lives of six U.S. airmen and five civilian contractors in Jalalabad, Afghanistan," said U.S. defense chief Ash Carter in a statement. The U.S. Air Force C-130J crashed at about 12:19 a.m.



Friday local time at Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan, some 120 km east of Afghan capital of Kabul. According to the U.S. military, it had already launched an investigation into the crash incident. After ending the combat mission at the end of last year, the U.S. and NATO-led troops, 13,000 in total, are currently focused on training, advising and assisting local Afghan forces. (Xinhua)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

The rhythm of your own drumbeat is so loud today that you can't resist dancing to it, following the sound wherever it leads. Happily, your insatiable curiosity is running wild as it uncovers exciting discoveries. Although you aspire to be practical in your approach now, you naturally overextend your energy when given the opportunity. Thankfully.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

You're slightly uneasy with the accelerated pace of events today. It's obvious how your current actions are setting the stage for what will happen next, but there are so many variables to take in account now that it's challenging to keep your head on straight. Your prospects for success are improving, leaving you without any excuse for abandoning your responsibilities.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your cheerful optimism attracts lovely surprises now, but you must be careful to balance positive affirmations with practical considerations. Although you can tell there is great potential for enjoyment today, the fun and games may have to wait if your Muse is calling. You have a chance to create something beautiful that enriches your spirit; including your friends in your process makes a meaningful experience even more special.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

A potential creative breakthrough is crackling in the air today, inspiring you to let go of your previous inhibitions and explode onto the scene with ingenious ideas of your own. Something is radically different about you now and your spontaneous behavior may catch others off guard. Nevertheless, you can't let everyone's expectations rain on your parade.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Thankfully, you bounce back like Tigger the Tiger whenever the going gets tough. The planets infuse you with an extra blast of energy today, adding to your zest for life. But it isn't wise to initiate action if you're only trying to avoid a difficult situation. You still may feel like you're on top of the world because everything seems to be going your way.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your confidence continues to grow stronger and stronger, yet residual negativity could prevent you from freely riding your own waves of enthusiasm. You still believe that you can accomplish something special now if you just go out and give it your absolute best. Fortunately, you have an excellent grasp of the situation and success is at your fingertips. This is not the time for hesitation; no matter what, stay on course until you have the whole world at your feet.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You are known to be a people person and typically thrive on your interpersonal interactions. In fact, your discussions with someone else often help you to see yourself more clearly. The feedback you receive today deepens your perspective, but only if you can be receptive to hearing it. An additional point of view increases your current options, so take time to integrate what you learn now before making any important decisions.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

You are such a realist by nature that you know your current enthusiasm won't last. But you're also clever enough to make the most of the good vibrations while you can. Recognition for a job well done is yours for the asking if you're willing to earn it. Although a bit of positive reinforcement won't change the overall trajectory of your life.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

You are playing the lead character in a movie about your own mythical story. In your script, you have morphed into an invincible superhero that won't be stopped by mortal dilemmas. But there is a price to pay for such inflationary thinking and your efforts could be undone by the smallest mundane detail. Fortunately, you can have the best of both worlds today if you consciously choose to walk the middle path.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

A healthy dose of common sense is usually enough to see you through periods of excessive ambition, but you might not be able to keep everything in proportion today. You may be overcome by an impulsive drive to squeeze more out of life in the present moment and are eager to share your good news with everyone. However, you must be careful about spilling secrets to the wrong people.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

Reality may kick up a dust storm today, especially if you're hiding your true intentions. Nevertheless, you can make strong emotional connections if you initiate meaningful communication now instead of wasting time talking about trivialities. Although people admire your open mind, you might not even realize how influential your values are or what precious treasures you bring to a relationship.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You have a profound sense of self-assurance that continues to deepen throughout next week. You're motivated to reach your goals and are ready to shift into high gear as quickly as you can. Your friends may think you're out of control now, but you're probably more centered than you appear. You have been considering your next move for a while, but your current excitement overshadows your previous planning.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66.

Across: 1. Chute, 6. Grumble, 10. Vipers, 14. Continuation of the coat collar, 15. Curved molding, 16. Jump, 17. Overact, 18. Zero, 19. Tall woody plant, 20. Renunciation, 22. Egg-shaped, 23. Basic unit of money in China, 24. Imperative, 26. Carpenter's groove, 30. "the season to be jolly", 31. Foot digit, 32. Ear-related, 33. Savvy about, 35. Express audibly, 39. To the point, 41. Apiary, 43. Lance, 44. A small wooded hollow, 46. Biblical garden, 47. Comes after Mi and Fah, 49. 14 in Roman numerals, 50. A musical pause, 51. A person without pigment, 54. How old we are, 56. Lawn mower brand, 57. Noteworthy, 3. King of the jungle, 64. Awestruck, 65. To untwist, 66. Operatic solo.

Down: 1. Parasitic insect, 2. Young sheep, 3. Atop, 4. Distribute, 5. Mournful poem, 6. Incorporated, 7. Opposed, 8. Start over, 9. Goober, 10. To a complete degree, 11. Wait on, 12. Song of praise, 13. Hardy wheat, 21. Cars, 25. Debauchee, 26. Physicians, 27. At the peak of, 28. Eat, 29. Irregular, 34. Compels, 36. It ebbs and flows, 37. Nights before, 38. Lease, 40. Weightlifters pump this, 42. Young eel, 45. Ideal, 48. Terrible, 51. Collection of maps, 52. France's longest river, 53. Grill, 55. Jaegers, 58. Lack of difficulty, 59. Against, 60. Smudge, 61. Alley, 62. Visual organs.

Yesterday's Solution: abase, aces, attend, bloom, camel, carbon, climax, deliberate, dent, duels, else, energy, engineer, enter, erse, event, fiend, freeze, front, genius, glory, graze, import, leach, length, male, marketplace, massage, maul, motel, museum, offense.

CLIMAXAMOTELP
EAPDYEBMSTNLL
VVMUZYZAAAPTEA
BGEEPUSRFLKAN
FLENLIEKEBRCK
FRONTBLENGTHS
FEFOIMMTGRAZE
FSFLMUAPIDPSC
IIETPSSLNULGA
EDNROESAEELR
NESIRUACELNOB
DNETTMGERSERO
ATTENDENERGYN