

Group In Syria Eyes End To Infighting

BEIRUT (AP) — The head of an al-Qaida-linked group in Syria reached out to rival rebel groups who have been engaged in a bloody battle with his fighters this month, calling for the two sides to end their infighting and instead unite against the government and its allies.

Rebel-on-rebel infighting between the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and an array of ultraconservative and more moderate rebel factions has killed more than 1,000 people across opposition-held northern Syria since it began in early January. The clashes are the most serious among the opponents of President Bashar Assad in Syria's nearly three-year civil war.

In a new 16-minute audio message posted online Sunday, Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi accused the other rebel brigades of stabbing his group in the back, and said the infighting only benefits the government.

"You know that we did not want this war, we did not go for it and we did not plan for it. It is clear that the beneficiaries of this war are the Nusayris and the Shiites," he said, using a derogatory term for Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

But he also called for reconciliation, saying the Islamic State "is extending its hand so that we refrain from attacking each other and so that we can join forces" against Assad and his allies.

Iraq Launches Offensive Against Al-Qaida

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi government forces and allied tribal militias launched an all-out offensive Sunday to push al-Qaida militants from a provincial capital, an assault that killed or wounded some 20 police officers and government-allied tribesmen, officials said.

Since late December, members of Iraq's al-Qaida branch — known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant — have taken over parts of Ramadi, the capital of the largely Sunni western province of Anbar. They also control the center of the nearby city of Fallujah, along with other non-al-Qaida groups that also oppose the Shiite-led government.

A military officer and two local officials said fierce clashes raged through Sunday night in parts of Ramadi, but gave no details.

Later, the commander of Anbar operations, army Lt. Gen. Rasheed Fleih, said that Iraqi special forces retook al-Bubali village following fierce clashes with the militants who had held it for about three weeks. Al-Bubali lies on the road between Ramadi and Fallujah.

Fleih said that gunmen had booby-trapped several houses in the village before their retreat. He declined to give any figures regarding casualties.

Afghan President: U.S. Strikes Must End

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's president demanded Sunday that the United States no longer carry out military operations or airstrikes and must jump-start peace talks with the Taliban before his country signs a security deal to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014.

President Hamid Karzai's deepening anti-American rhetoric comes as the Taliban intensifies its assaults ahead of the planned withdrawal and after Friday's militant raid on a popular Kabul restaurant, the deadliest single attack against foreign civilians in the course of the nearly 13-year U.S.-led war.

Although Karzai has made similar demands in the past, he has in recent weeks ratcheted up his condemnations of alleged U.S. failures as Afghans look fearfully ahead to an uncertain future.

Karzai made the statement after being presented with the findings of an investigation into a joint Afghan-U.S. military operation last week that resulted in civilian casualties which he blamed on a U.S. military air strike.

Iran's 'Most Important Commitments'

Country Prepares For Start Of Its Nuclear Deal

BY NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Ahead of the start of a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, an official in the Islamic Republic called limiting uranium enrichment and diluting its stockpile of the country's "most important commitments," state radio reported Sunday.

The comments by Behrouz Kamalvandi, a spokesman of Iran's atomic department, show how the government of moderate President Hassan Rouhani welcomes the deal, which begins Monday. International inspectors also already have arrived in Tehran, preparing for the government opening its facilities to them.

"Implementation of mutual commitments in the framework of the Geneva deal will begin from tomorrow," Kamalvandi said. "Under the agreement, suspension of 20-percent enrichment of uranium — and the diluting of the current stockpile of enriched uranium — are the most important commitments of our country."

Iran struck the deal in November with the so-called P5+1 countries —

Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States. Negotiators agreed to final terms of the deal Jan. 13.

Under the agreement, Iran will limit its uranium enrichment to 5 percent — the grade commonly used to power reactors. The deal also commits Iran to stop producing 20 percent enriched uranium — which is only a technical step away from weapons-grade material — and to neutralize its 20 percent stockpile over the six months.

In exchange, economic sanctions Iran faces would be eased for six months. Senior officials in U.S. President Barack Obama's administration have put the total relief figure at some \$7 billion.

During the six months, negotiations between Iran and the world powers would continue in hopes of reaching a permanent deal.

The West fears Iran's nuclear program could allow it to build an atomic weapon. Iran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, like power generation and medical research.

On Saturday a team of international inspectors arrived in Tehran in preparation of beginning their inspections. They will visit Fordo, where Iran enriches its

20 percent uranium, as well as its Natanz facility, which produces 5 percent enriched uranium, to ensure the country complies with the deal.

Kamalvandi said Sunday that Iran will use centrifuges now producing 20 percent enriched uranium to instead produce 5 percent enriched uranium to comply with the agreement.

But suspicions remain high in both Tehran and Washington after decades of hostility dating back to the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran that ousted the U.S.-backed shah dynasty. Rouhani, Iran's new reformist president, has reached out to the West, but must depend on support from Iran's top decision-maker, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, for his initiatives amid criticism from hard-line factions.

Hard-liners in Iran have already called the deal a "poison chalice" and are threatening legislation to increase uranium enrichment. Meanwhile, U.S. lawmakers have threatened to pass new sanctions legislation against Iran that would take effect if Tehran violates the interim nuclear deal or lets it expire without a follow-up accord.

Writing a post on his Facebook page Sunday, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif reassured the world that the deal will begin on time.

USPS, Union Wrangle Over Staples Outlets

BY SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

"It's a direct assault on our jobs and on public postal services."

MARK DIMONDSTEIN

WASHINGTON — The opening of Postal Service retail centers in dozens of Staples stores around the country is being met with threats of protests and boycotts by the agency's unions.

The new outlets are staffed by Staples employees, not postal workers, and labor officials say that move replaces good-paying union jobs with low-wage, nonunion workers.

"It's a direct assault on our jobs and on public postal services," said Mark Dimondstein, president of the 200,000-member American Postal Workers Union.

The dispute comes as the financially struggling Postal Service continues to form partnerships with private

companies, and looks to cut costs and boost revenues. The deal with Staples began as a pilot program in November at 84 stores in California, Georgia, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania as a way make it easier for customers to buy stamps, send packages or use Priority and certified mail.

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said the program has nothing to do with privatization and everything to do with customer service and driving up demand for the agency's products.

"The privatization discussion is a ruse," Donahoe

said in an interview. "We have no interest in privatizing the Postal Service. We are looking to grow our business to provide customer convenience to postal products."

Staples spokeswoman Carrie McElwee referred questions about union concerns to the Postal Service. She said the company "continually tests new products and services to better meet the needs of our customers."

Union leaders fear that if the Staples program is successful, the Postal Service will want to expand it to more than 1,500 of the company's other stores. That

could siphon work and customers away from nearby brick-and-mortar post offices, taking jobs from postal workers and even leading traditional post offices to close.

Union leaders have been visiting Staples stores to meet with managers, asking them to share the union's displeasure with upper management.

Dimondstein asked to meet with the Staples CEO Ronald Sargent, who has declined.

The union plans to hold "sustained" protests this month at Staples stores in the San Francisco and San Jose, Calif., area that would be expanded elsewhere. Union officials also are considering how they can exert pressure on Staples shareholders.

OBITUARIES

Rev. Oliver Omanson

Reverend Oliver Fredrick Omanson, 96, passed into eternity on January 17, 2014 at the Veteran's Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.



Omanson

Oliver's Christian devotion and energy for life will be missed by all. Oliver faithfully served the Lord in churches in South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Nebraska. Amazingly, he was still pastoring Cornerstone Evangelical Church in Yankton, SD at the age of 95 until his health began to fail and he moved to Sioux Falls to live with his son Darrell.

Oliver was born in Kewanee, Illinois April 27, 1917 on the family farm. The family later moved to rural Canova, SD where Oliver graduated from Canova High School. Shortly after Pearl Harbor Oliver served in the 45th Infantry Division of the US Army.

Following basic training he was shipped to North Africa and later fought in the invasion of Sicily and then on to the Italian mainland. In July of 1943, his machine gun squad was trapped behind enemy lines near Salerno, Italy. The Nazis captured all nine members of his squad and Oliver endured 19 months as a POW in Germany and finally in Poland. His heroic and inspirational story is recorded in his book, "Prisoner of War Number 21860."

After the war, Oliver returned to the United States with a passion to honor God, the American flag and country. He returned to the family farm where one very memorable day he knew the Lord was calling him into full-time ministry. Soon after, Oliver married Genevieve Palmquist and with her encouragement, attended the University of South Dakota and graduated from Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. For more than six decades, Oliver and Genevieve served side-by-side in ministry, touching many lives with the gospel message. Oliver fervently preached the Word of God and

Genevieve blessed everyone with her beautiful voice. Even in Oliver's last days he read daily out of his collection of Bibles and devotionals, listened to his favorite Christian broadcasts and news programs, and faithfully prayed for each family member and other concerns the Lord laid on his heart. Oliver lived out his life verse: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

Oliver is survived by his sons, Darrell (Susan) and Dwight (Judy) Omanson; son-in-law Mike Stevens (Linda); grandchildren, Charity, Micah (Darrell), Sophie, Sadie (Deborah), Jason, Jessica, Tiffany, Heidi and Haley (Dwight), six great-grandchildren and his brother Vurl Omanson.

He was preceded in death by his devoted partner and wife Genevieve and his precious daughter, Deborah. We take comfort knowing they are united once again ... well done my good and faithful servants.

There will be a private family interment at Sun Prairie Baptist Church. We look for-

ward to celebrating Oliver's life at a special memorial service this spring.

Kinzley Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. The family requests memorials be sent to the Christian charity or church of your choice in lieu of flowers.

Visit www.kinzleyfh.com/.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 20, 2014

Stanley Storm

ARMOUR — Stanley Storm, 83, died at Avera St. Benedict Hospital in Parkston on Friday, January 17.

Funeral service will be Monday, January 20 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church near Armour with burial following in St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery near Armour.

Visitation will be Sunday, January 19 from 5-8 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. prayer service at Koehn Bros. Funeral Home in Armour.



Storm

Stanley Storm was born March 26, 1930 in Douglas County to Walter and Susan Storm. He grew up on the farm east of Armour, SD. He spent four years in the US Navy as a gunners mate on the USS Iowa during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge, he returned to the family farm. He was united in marriage to Doris Grosz on May 28, 1960 at St. Peter Lutheran Church. They farmed there together for 52 years. To this union, three children were born, Audrey, Carmen and Jeffrey. Stanley was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church where he served as an elder. He was also a member of the VFW in Armour and Valley Township board. He moved to the Lake Andes Health Care Center in June 2012, where he got excellent care from a wonderful staff. Stanley went to his heavenly home on Friday, January 17, 2014 at Avera St. Benedict Hospital in Parkston, SD at the age of 83.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Doris, 3 children, Audrey (Dale) Petrick of Wagner, SD, Carmen (Jeffrey) Doering of Yankton, SD and Jeffrey Storm and friend Pam of

Custer, SD; 5 grandchildren, Jeremiah (Melanie) Weerheim, Corey (Laine) Weerheim, Mindy Doering, Amy Doering and Brody Storm; two great-grandchildren, Joshua and Abigail Weerheim; 3 brothers, Ivan (Alice) Blume, Duane (Carolle) Blume and Keith Blume; as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Stanley was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Susan (Storm) Blume and Frederick Blume, a brother Alden Blume and 2 sisters-in-law, Myra Blume and Jocelyn Blume.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 20, 2014



Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Priscilla MacKinnon
who passed away on
January 22, 2013

Frances R. Rokusek
who passed away on
January 24, 2013

Fredrick Nelsen
who passed away on
January 24, 2013

Kent Wintersteen
who passed away on
January 26, 2013

Rev. Roger D. Grow
who passed away on
January 23, 2007

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

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Fosheim

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ing with 4-H in Yankton County. I wish every county had this experience," she said. "We are able to do things for our members and volunteers. There is such a level of commitment."

Yankton County Commissioner Donna Freng, the liaison with 4-H and Extension programs, commended Fosheim's work during the past 2 1/2 years.

"Lauren was excellent at what she did. We hired her newly out of school, and she just presented herself so well and was so professional. I really liked her," Freng said.

"When Lauren started, one of the things we wanted to do was incorporate more of the urban kids and mix them with the 4-H and rural kids, so the whole of Yankton County could benefit from her. She did really well in growing (the youth programs)."

Fosheim worked with the Boys and Girls Club, the Yankton Community Library and the Yankton and Gayville-Volin after-school programs. She organized

events and workshops beyond the traditional agricultural programs found in 4-H.

Looking ahead, the Yankton County Commission will retain the 4-H/youth development position and begin a search for Fosheim's replacement, Freng said. The commissioners plan to discuss the vacancy at Tuesday's regular meeting, she said.

"We had a meeting with Lauren and the 4-H leaders to put together a job description (for the next person), because there have been changes since she was hired as the 4-H/youth development leader," the county commissioner said.

The Yankton County 4-H office at 709 Whiting Drive will maintain "business as usual," Freng said. Administrative assistant Danielle McFarland will offer both 4-H and agricultural services.

"Danielle is a superb office manager. We will con-

tinue to operate the county office on a full-time basis," Freng said. "Danielle will take over some of the 4-H duties, and she will keep the connection with Extension so it can benefit local farmers with training and services."

McFarland offered tremendous knowledge and support, providing a team-work that allowed more time for working with the 4-Hers, Fosheim said. She also commended the contributions of the 4-Hers, parents, volunteers and state 4-H advisor Andy Jensen.

The Yankton County experiences will serve Fosheim well in her new role, said Kate Foley with the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Those experiences include planning events, networking with other organizations and managing a group of 150 members and 30 volunteers.

Fosheim doesn't plan to cut her ties with Yankton County, offering to assist the 4-Hers she has seen mature as young adults.

"When I started here, I wasn't much older than many of our 4-Hers. It was like working with little sisters and brothers," she said.

"The kids start off shy, and then they find their

niche and become adults. It's awesome to watch them grow up. They're like my kids. It's exciting, and I will keep in touch."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

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