

VOA NEWS

February 5, 2024

This is VOA News. I'm Joe Ramsey.

The White House's national security adviser says the U.S. intends to launch further strikes at Iran-backed groups in the Middle East after hitting Tehran-aligned factions in Iraq, Syria and Yemen over the last two days. Reuters correspondent Alex Cohen has more.

The strikes come a day after the U.S. military hit Tehran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for a deadly attack on U.S. troops in Jordan.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told NBC Sunday that the U.S. intends to take, quote, "additional action to continue to send a clear message that the United States will respond when our forces are attacked."

Saturday's strikes in Yemen hit buried weapons storage facilities, missile systems, launchers and other capabilities the Houthis have used to attack Red Sea shipping, the Pentagon said adding it targeted 13 locations.

Reuters correspondent Alex Cohen.

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Sunday strikes on Yemen's Houthis were self-defense against the Iran-backed group's continued targeting of commercial ships and warships in the Red Sea.

"I've been clear that I won't hesitate to protect British lives, British interests and our diplomatic efforts are focused on bringing deescalation and stability back to the region."

The U.S. and British strikes were the latest sign of spreading conflict in the Middle East since war erupted between Israel and Hamas after the militant Palestinian group's deadly assault on Israel October 7.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday Israel was not ready to accept a deal at any price to release hostages held by Hamas.

Hamas and the Houthis are U.S.-designated terrorist groups by the State Department and the White House.

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Wildfires sweeping through central Chile have killed at least 99 people and hundreds are still missing, authorities said on Sunday, as President Gabriel Boric warned the country faces a, quote, "tragedy of very great magnitude."

Wildfires that began several days ago are menacing the outer edges of Vina del Mar and Valparaíso, two coastal cities popular with tourists. The urban sprawl of those cities accounts for more than a million residents west of the capital Santiago.

Chilean authorities introduced a curfew in the hardest-hit areas and sent in the military to help firefighters stem the spread of fires, while helicopters dumped water to try to douse the flames from the air.

In a Russian-occupied city in Ukraine's Luhansk region, Moscow-installed officials said an attack on Saturday killed at least 28 people in a bakery, with at least one child among the dead. VOA's Arash Arabasadi has more.

For the field hospital just a few kilometers from frontline, fighting injured soldiers arrive in need of medical attention. One soldier describes increasingly closer explosions until one struck his position, saying his leg then moved wherever it liked.

And for those stationed on the southeastern front, a visit from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in which he handed out medals to soldiers near position once occupied by Russian forces.

Arash Arabasadi, VOA News.

Several U.S. judges have been trying to set the record straight when it comes to claims that suspects in the deadly January 6, 2021 Capitol riot are being unfairly treated. AP correspondent Jackie Quinn reports.

"1349 hours, declaring it a riot."

A federal judge in North Carolina, Royce Lamberth, presided over the trial of one of the Capitol insurrection suspects. He warns that any efforts to portray the violent mob that stormed the Capitol as political prisoners or hostages is a serious threat to the nation and could stoke more violence.

Another judge in Washington, D.C. scolded a rioter with a long criminal record who complained the trial was unfair. That's something candidate Donald Trump said on the anniversary of the insurrection.

"Of you're with us, they put you in jail. Look at what's happened with the J-6 hostages. They're hostages."

Trump has been floating the idea of pardons if he's reelected.

I'm Jackie Quinn.

Zimbabwe's ruling party now commands a two-thirds majority in parliament and could amend the constitution and prolong President Emmerson Mnangagwa's control after by-election results released Sunday.

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