



MILITARY EXERCISES: Hulusi Akar, Turkey's chief of the general staff, is seen during the EFES-2018 Military Exercise near the Aegean port city of Izmir, Turkey, May 10, 2018. Osman Orsal/Reuters

Turkey flexes military might near Idlib

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish troops and tanks carried out military exercises on the border with Syria on Saturday, state-run media reported, while a monitoring group said a Turkish convoy had crossed the frontier into northern Syria.

Turkey's military sent tanks and armored vehicles to the border in the second day of reinforcements near the province of Idlib, the last major rebel stronghold in Syria.

On Friday, a Turkish security source said the Turkish army had been rotating forces in and out of the region, and declined to say whether the latest movement was in preparation for an operation inside Syria itself.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based monitoring group, said a Turkish convoy had entered Syria.

Islamist fighters have tightened their control over the Idlib region following more than a week of fighting with Turkey-backed Syrian rebels.

The rise of the jihadist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham has raised doubt over the future of a deal agreed in September between Turkey - which has several military observation posts in Idlib - and President Bashar al-Assad's main ally, Russia, to avert a Syrian government army assault. The agreement requires banned Islamist groups to be expelled from a frontline buffer zone.

The escalation in Idlib comes as U.S. forces prepare to withdraw from a separate region of northern and eastern Syria.

Earlier on Saturday, the Turkish defense minister, chief of general staff and the intelligence agency head visited border military units and discussed "measures to establish peace and stability in the region," the ministry said in a statement.

Saudi teen granted asylum in Canada

TORONTO (Reuters) - An 18-year-old Saudi woman who fled her family this week saying she feared for her life arrived in Toronto's international airport on Saturday after being granted asylum in Canada, where Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland welcomed her as a brave new Canadian.

Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun grabbed international attention this week after she barricaded herself in a Bangkok airport hotel room to resist being sent home to her family, which denies any abuse. Qunun refused to meet her father and brother, who arrived in Bangkok to try to take her back to Saudi Arabia.

Qunun arrived at Toronto's Pearson International Airport on Saturday morning, wearing a hoodie emblazoned with the word Canada in red, and a blue cap with the logo of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which has granted her refugee status.

In her last tweet before leaving for Toronto, Qunun said, "I did it," and posted pictures from inside an airplane.

Freeland, who received Qunun at the airport, told reporters that Qunun is "a very brave new Canadian."

"Rahaf wanted Canadians to see that she has arrived at her new home," Freeland told reporters. "But she had a very long and tiring journey and so would prefer not to take questions



#SAVERAHAF: Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun arrives at Toronto Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Canada, on Jan. 12. The Saudi teen filed for asylum after fleeing her family last week, saying she feared for her life. Carlos Osorio/Reuters

today. And she is now going to go to her new home."

A smiling Qunun waved to reporters as she walked out into the international arrivals area but did not speak to the media. After a brief appearance, she was taken back into the airport terminal.

Canada's decision to grant asylum to Qunun comes at a delicate time. Relations between Ottawa and Riyadh have been tense after Canada demanded the immediate release of jailed rights activists last year, infuriating Saudi

Arabia who retaliated by freezing new trade with Ottawa.

Qunun, who had initially intended to seek asylum in Australia, chose Canada instead because Australia took too long assessing whether to grant her asylum.

"(Australia) takes too long. That's why I went to Canada," she told Reuters in a direct message before boarding her flight to Toronto. Qunun took a Korean Air flight from Bangkok to Seoul on Friday and then a connecting flight to Toronto.

Her case has drawn global attention to Saudi Arabia's strict social rules, including a requirement that women have the permission of a male "guardian" to travel, which rights groups say can trap women and girls as prisoners of abusive families.

Qunun arrived in Bangkok a week ago and was initially denied entry. But she soon started posting messages on Twitter from the transit area of Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport saying she had "escaped Kuwait" and her life would be in danger if forced to return to Saudi Arabia.

Within hours, a campaign sprang up dubbed #SaveRahaf, spread on Twitter by a loose network of activists.

Following a 48-hour standoff at Bangkok airport, some of it barricaded in a transit lounge hotel room, she was allowed to enter the country and was processed as a refugee by the UNHCR.

Venezuela claims win in border dispute

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela's government claimed victory on Saturday in a diplomatic quarrel with Latin American countries over a border dispute with Guyana, while ignoring an avalanche of criticism over President Nicolas Maduro's second term in office.

Maduro had warned members of the so-called Lima Group of "diplomatic measures" after they said on Jan. 4 that they would not recognize his second term because Venezuela's 2018 election was not free or fair.

The statement, signed by nations including Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, also expressed concern that Venezuela had violated Guyana's sovereignty by stopping a ship doing offshore oil exploration on behalf of Exxon Mobil Corp.

Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said at a news conference on Saturday that 10 of the 12 governments that signed the statement had since clarified their position on the Guyana dispute.

"We believe that regional diplomacy has convinced these countries" to reconsider the border issue, Arreaza said. "Diplomacy has ensured the rule of law."

He said he hoped that the other two countries - Paraguay and Canada - would follow the example of the bloc's other members. Paraguay cut

diplomatic ties with Venezuela on Thursday.

Arreaza did not address the Group's broader point about the legitimacy of Maduro, who was sworn in on Thursday, except to denounce the bloc's Jan. 4 statement as "vulgar" interference in Venezuelan internal affairs.

The OPEC nation's 2018 vote was widely boycotted by the opposition and condemned as rigged by governments around the world. Maduro insists it was fair and that opposition leaders did not take part because they knew they would lose.



PROTESTS ERUPT AFTER INAUGURATION: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a ceremony, after his swearing-in for a second presidential term, at Fuerte Tiuna military base in Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 10.

Adriana Loureiro/Reuters

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR DENTISTRY

REGULAR SESSION MEETING
Wednesday,
January 16, 2019
at 3:00 PM

at the Terlaja Professional Building, 194 Herman Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagatna, Guam.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172.

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Regular Board Meeting,
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
at 4:00 PM

at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, Board Conference Room, 850 Carlos G. Camacho Road, Tamuning, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

GUAM DAILY POST • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019

Erratic driver arrested for meth possession, GPD says

A traffic stop for erratic driving led to the drug arrest of a 23-year-old man Monday in Dededo.

An officer with the Guam Police Department reported a vehicle straddling the middle and outer northbound lanes as it traveled on Route 16 in Dededo, adding that the vehicle would stop and accelerate sporadically.

The officer conducted a traffic stop and waited for another officer to arrive and conduct a field sobriety test.

While they waited, the officer asked the driver, later identified as Jayson Salafan Phillip, to exit the vehicle. According to court documents,

Charged

Jayson Salafan Phillip, 23, was charged with possession of a Schedule II controlled substance as a third-degree felony.



when Phillip opened the door the officer saw a pouch under the driver seat and asked the vehicle's occupants who it belonged to. Phillip and his passenger allegedly pointed out each other as the owner of the pouch. The officer then asked to search the pouch and both men gave

permission, court documents state.

Inside the pouch, according to court documents, the officer found "(Phillip's) Guam identification card, an improvised glass pipe with suspected methamphetamine, three clear baggies containing suspected methamphetamine, and a white plastic straw."

Phillip later admitted the pouch and its contents belonged to him, according to court documents.

He was arrested and charged with possession of a Schedule II controlled substance as a third-degree felony.

(Daily Post Staff)

Police use victim's phone to track stolen vehicle

Police used a woman's phone to locate the vehicle she had reported stolen Sunday in Yigo, leading to the suspect's arrest.

On Jan. 6, Guam Police Department officers responded to a reported car theft at Pay-Less Supermarket in Yigo.

At the scene, officers interviewed a woman who said she had parked her 2015 Chevy Malibu in the parking lot. When she later returned, she said, the vehicle was gone.

The woman said her boyfriend may have left the keys in the car or dropped them on the ground.

Security footage

Officers then interviewed a loss-prevention officer at Pay-Less, who said another witness was reviewing security footage of the parking lot.

The footage showed that "a man with a slim build, black hat, black shirt, camouflage pants, and black and white shoes entered (the woman's) vehicle around 4:32 p.m. and drove away with the vehicle," according to court documents.

The loss-prevention officer also tracked the vehicle's location using the victim's phone, which was left inside.

Police tracked and later located the vehicle "about an hour or two" later, in front of a residence, court documents state. They ordered the driver out of the vehicle and saw that he matched the description of the man captured on the surveillance footage at Pay-Less.

Witnesses identified the man as 61-year-old Albert Borja Lucena, which police said they confirmed using his Guam ID. He was arrested and charged with one count of theft of a motor vehicle as a second-degree felony. *(Daily Post Staff)*

New port GM plans review of fired workers' cases

By Kevin Kerrigan
kevin@postguam.com

On his first day as acting general manager of the Port Authority of Guam, former Sen. Rory Respicio acknowledged that he plans to create a task force to re-examine the six-year-old case of seven fired port employees.

The employees were given notices of adverse action on Dec. 6, 2012, in connection with an allegedly fraudulent workers' compensation case filed by former marketing director Bernadette Meno.

The agency's former general manager is raising questions about that plan.

"I think politics is rearing its ugly head," said Joanne Brown, who served as general manager for six years until last Friday. "It's something the public really needs to watch out for."

She questioned Respicio's decision to review cases that have been under review in the courts and by the Civil Service Commission for years.

"He just got confirmed by the board

and that's his priority? I think it's totally improper," she said. "Keep in mind after Bernadette was terminated, (Respicio) hired her to work at the Guam Legislature."

Respicio told The Guam Daily Post that "in the case of the 'Port Seven,' I maintain that it's truly politics that cost them their jobs." He said he intends to create a task force and have acting Deputy General Manager Connie Shinohara look into the merits not only of those seven but also all the pending cases.

The "Port Seven" issue was not raised during a board meeting Tuesday.

During that meeting, however, Respicio proposed another initiative that some board members questioned.

Soon after his appointment as general manager was unanimously approved by the board, Respicio made a motion to hire in-house legal counsel to replace the Port Authority's current legal counsel, the Phillips & Bordallo law firm. He also proposed issuing a contract to hire specialized maritime legal services.

Board member Oscar Calvo suggested tabling the motion.

"There are pending cases that we need to review. I think it's prudent for us to continue on with (attorney Mike Phillips') legal services," he said.

"I, too, object," said board member Maria Taitano. "This is a really big operational change."

She added, "We've got huge cases, we've got the YTK, and to attempt to switch legal counsel in the middle, I don't believe that is fair."

The YTK case involves an arbitration award that could force the Port Authority to pay \$15 million to a former tenant that the agency contends was kicked out for alleged nonpayment of the lease. YTK has alleged the award is for a breach of contract on the agency's part.

Respicio explained that he was not suggesting an immediate termination of the current legal counsel, but only asking for authorization to proceed with the plan. By the next board meeting, he said he would present the details. A transition to a new legal counsel "takes time," he said, and it would probably be "several months for that person to come on board." Phillips' contract with the Port Authority expires in June.

The board approved the motion to allow Respicio to proceed with his plan.

GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION
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414 West Soledad Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 477-9791 • Fax: (671) 477-1895
E-Mail: vote@gec.guam.gov Website: www.gec.guam.gov

GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

The Guam Election Commission has scheduled its monthly meeting for **Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Guam Election Commission Conference Room 200, 414 W. Soledad Ave., GCIC Building, Hagåtña, Guam.

The public is invited. For individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services please contact the Guam Election Commission. For more information, you may call Helen M. Atalig at (671) 477-9791 or send an email to vote@gec.guam.gov.

This advertisement is paid with Government funds.

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