

Syrian Kurds Discover ISIL Tunnel Near Turkish Border



Damascus, June 23 (RHC)-- Kurdish forces have uncovered a 400-meter-long tunnel dug by ISIL Takfiri terrorists near the Turkish border with Syria. Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) found the uncompleted tunnel after they retook the Syrian border town of Tal Abyad last week, the Associated Press quoted YPG spokesman Redur Khalil as saying on Monday.

It is not clear if the tunnel was to link Syria to Turkey as it branches off in two directions at one point, he noted. Over 16,000 foreign militants entered Syria mostly through Turkish territory last year to join the ranks of the ISIL, according to a US State Department report. The recapture of Tal Abyad has blocked a vital supply chain to the ISIL self-proclaimed capital, Raqqa.

Earlier on Monday, YPG forces also captured a key ISIL military base, Liwa 93, located north of Raqqa, said the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. According to the group's director, Rami Abdel Rahman, ISIL's lines of defense were pushed back from Raqqa and the "Kurds also entered the outskirts of the town of Ayn Issa, close to Brigade 93... This town has basically fallen in the military sense with the capture of the base."

The Syrian government military base, overrun by ISIL last year, holds strategic importance as it overlooks the main roads linking Raqqa to the northwestern Syrian city of Aleppo and the northeastern province of Hasakah.

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