

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## For Regional Peace and Security

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has launched massive war games to ensure peace and security across the Persian Gulf.*

*The manoeuvres, code-named the Great Prophet 9, kicked off on Wednesday with mine operations and firing of coast-to-sea missiles in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The new war games are designed to enhance the defense capabilities of Iran's armed forces and to test modern military tactics and equipment.*

*As maintained, the drills are not just about Iran's security. Tehran has always expressed its willingness for cooperation with the Persian Gulf littoral states in all spheres. This is while a wide range of disputes among the littoral states plus the intervention of world powers have stopped the volatile region from having an effective security system in place.*

*Moreover, a number of regional and international players continue to ignore such a bona fide position, in particular the United States which continues to pursue its intrusive policies through military means, arms race and terrorism in bid to counter and contain Iran.*

*The fact is that the US and its cohorts want to set up Iran as a threat to the region. To this end, they encourage arms race and continue to block any type of regional agreement, cooperation, or even dialogue and exchange of views on political, economic and security issues. They know that the most important factor in progress and prosperity is provision of security for Persian Gulf in cooperation with all littoral states.*

*That explains why to promote peace, security and stability in the Persian Gulf, the littoral states have no other option but to establish a regional security pact. They must also cooperate and work closely with the United Nations, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.*

*The security pact could offer a number of advantages in carrying out regional conflict management tasks as it has strong background knowledge and already existing personal relations that may be used to exert more pressure than that available to the UN. It can also be the first to be affected by the conflict to generate the political will necessary to take immediate measures to deal with the conflict.*

*Without question, such a joint cooperation could ultimately result in collective development and benefit the Islamic world at this crucial juncture. The officials and the people of Middle East should take note of the fact that Western powers are only after their own illicit interests.*

*So in closing, the least they could do is make the most of such an exceptional offer and opportunity that says no to terrorism and ethnic-religious strife and yes to collective efforts and mutual trust that can guarantee sustainable peace and stability, and safeguard Islamic solidarity all the way through the region and beyond.*

## IAEA: Iran Talks Led to Better Understanding

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) -- The United Nations' atomic agency said a meeting with a senior Iranian official had led to a "better understanding" between the two sides.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has been in talks with Iran for years about Iran's past work. The IAEA's Director-General Yukiya Amano met earlier this month in Munich with Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif to discuss the issues. They agreed that there should be more frequent senior official discussions between Iran and the agency.

In a follow-up to that meeting, Amano met Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Vienna.

"Today's meeting was useful and facilitated a better understanding between the two sides," the IAEA said in a statement. "The discussions focused on the need to resolve, as soon as possible, all outstanding issues related to Iran's nuclear program."

After the meeting, which lasted close to two hours, Araghchi said they agreed "to move faster and in a better sense" in resolving the key questions about Iran's past work.

The meeting comes as negotiations progress in separate set of talks between Iran and six major powers on the future of Iran's nuclear program.

In November 2011, the IAEA published a report which listed 12 sets of questions about Iran's past work.

# Countries Urged to Cut Off ISIL Support



Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif (L) speaks during a news conference with his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari in Baghdad.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari and his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif have called on the international community to completely cut off support channels for extremist organizations.

The two diplomats made the remarks at a press conference after their meeting earlier in which they discussed topics such as Iran's nuclear program, combating extremism and other regional issues.

The statement came in response to recent reports of unknown aircraft dropping weapons and equipment to ISIL forces in Iraq.

Jaafari said that there was no concrete evidence for the event, but he warned against the act, saying that any country supporting extremist organizations is an enemy of Iraq. Although Iraq welcomes support

from all countries to fight against extremism, it does not allow any interference in its internal affairs.

"We have heard of this bad news, but it is not certain for now which countries are involved. What I would like to stress now is that if any country is confirmed to have been involved, we will clearly make our stand and firmly oppose and object to these countries for they have directly or indirectly violated Iraq's state sovereignty by supporting extremism," he said.

Iran has expressed its support for Iraq's battle against extremism and offered weapons to Kurdish forces in the north. On his visit Tuesday, Zarif said Iran will continue offering necessary support to Iraq. He also called on the international community to cut off all support to extremist groups.

## Iran Rejects U.S. 'Blame Game' Over Yemen

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran on Wednesday rejected as a blame game recent remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who accused the Islamic Republic of intervening in Yemen.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said Kerry's recent comments accusing Iran of aiding the collapse of the Yemeni government constituted a blame game and contradicted previous remarks made by US officials.

"All sides should allow the Yemeni nation to determine the country's fate by itself; and all mechanisms should be based on the people's will and demands," Afkham said, adding that Iran firmly believes in and respects the right of every nation to determine its fate.

She said any foreign intervention in the course of the political developments in Yemen would complicate the political situation there and would obstruct the realization of political stability in the Arab country.

On Tuesday, Kerry had accused Iran of supporting the Shia Houthi revolutionaries, also known as Ansarullah fighters, in the takeover of the Yemeni capital, Sana's, and the fall of the government.

"I think it (Iran) contributed to it (the collapse of the Yemeni government)," Kerry said, adding, "But I do know that the Iranians were surprised by the events that

"We believe that the entire international community needs to participate actively in this struggle against Daesh (Arabic acronym for the ISIL group) and terrorism and extremism. First and foremost, by ceasing to provide assistance to these terrorists, whether it is free passage, whether it is financial assistance, other types of assistance, which unfortunately have been continuing to arrive and to be received by Daesh," said Zarif.

Iraq has a clear stance to respect all countries' sovereignty and not to interfere in their internal affairs, Jaafari said in response to a ques-

## Press Digest

### Turkish Aggression

SIASAT ROOZ: Turkey should be condemned and punished for violating Syria's sovereignty. Many at the UN Security Council are of the opinion that the latest territorial aggression proves beyond any doubt that Turkey has close ties with the terrorist group of ISIL. The training of terrorists in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, and Jordan and sending them to Syria to fight the government is a clear violation of Security Council resolutions and international law.

### Yemen Politics

JAVAN: Saudis use money to corrupt regional government officials for political gains. But they have failed to do so in Yemen. That's why the Yemenis have what it takes to become a successful role model for the rest of the region when it comes to nation building and democracy. Despite Saudi-American pressures the revolutionaries in Yemen are doing a fine job in establishing a new government that is all-inclusive and democratic. They are successful role models when it comes to protecting national interests and preserving progressive independence.

### Campaign Finance

AFTAB: People should know how candidates secure their election campaign funds. Voters should know how their candidates are able to fund their campaigns. Transparency is key to having a transparent and democratic election where people are able to find answers to basic questions about the role that money plays in elections. They should also find answers to questions they never thought to ask. These should include all money spent by presidential candidates, parliament and city councils, political parties and independent interest groups trying to influence national elections.

### Wake-Up Call

KHORASAN: The American politicians are finally hearing the wake-up call in their ineffective strategy of war of words against the Islamic Republic. In this day and age, top politicians and senior officials are coming to terms with new realities on the ground that clearly demonstrate the Islamic Republic as a self-sufficient and independent regional power to be reckoned with. Hence in their official and unofficial meetings or press conferences they are reflecting on the need to reverse policy and to renew contact with Tehran.

The Holy Qur'an

How can there be an agreement for the idolaters with Allah and with His Apostle; except those with whom you made an agreement at the Sacred Mosque? So as long as they are true to you, be true to them; surely Allah loves those who are careful.

The Holy Qur'an (9.7)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	18:14
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:15
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:38

tion about Turkey's operation late Saturday inside Syria to bring remains of an Ottoman founder.

Zarif also said Iran respects the sovereignty of countries. "According to Iran, the respect of countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity is a basic principle of international relations. To break this rule leads to a lack of confidence," he said.

Zarif also met Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, saying Iran will not leave Iraq alone in the fight against terrorism.

The Iraqi premier, for his part, highlighted Iran's role in the campaign against terrorism and underlined the need for cooperation among countries in the Middle East to fight the menace.

Abadi also praised Iran's assistance to his country in countering terrorism and called for promotion of ties between the two neighboring states in all areas.