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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

The Gaza Reconstruction Game

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran's Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani says Muslim nations should help rebuild Gaza following Israel's 50-day war on the besieged enclave.

In a meeting with Secretary General of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine Ramadan Abdullah in Tehran, Larijani said, "Islamic countries should take immediate action, away from propaganda fanfare, to help the oppressed Gazans reconstruct their war-ravaged land."

Abdullah, in turn, expressed gratitude for Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian people, saying Israel's military assaults on Gaza laid bare the regime's failure to counter the resistance.

On Sunday October 12, in an international conference, donors pledged \$5.4bn to rebuild Gaza, but only \$2.7bn is slated for reconstruction; the rest will support the PA's budget over the next three years. Throughout the war, more than 60,000 houses were destroyed or damaged, forcing one in four Palestinians in Gaza to flee. Around 110,000 people remain displaced.

Approximately 1,000 industrial enterprises, including factories, were also affected. Close to 2.5 million tons of rubble will need to be removed, according to a 72-page Gaza reconstruction plan presented to donors in Cairo.

The Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism includes an Israeli-Palestinian-UN team to oversee monitoring. That explains why the international aid agency Oxfam has warned that money pledged at the global donor conference in Cairo "will languish in bank accounts for decades before it reaches people, unless long-standing Israeli restrictions on imports are lifted."

Oxfam says, "Under current restrictions and rate of imports it could take more than 50 years to build the 89,000 new homes, 226 new schools, as well as the health facilities, factories and water and sanitation infrastructure that people in Gaza need." So no matter how much money international donors raise for reconstruction, Israel determines what gets in and out of Gaza.

In the meantime, the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC) has condemned the failure to bring meaningful pressure on the Zionist regime to end the siege that had brought the economy to its knees even before the destruction it wrought on Gaza this summer.

"Donor money pledges are no substitute for holding Israel accountable for its grave violations of international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, and achieving justice for the Palestinian victims," the BNC stated this week.

The BNC also criticizes the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross for operating "within the confines of Israel's policy of separation and collective punishment."

Without also adopting a comprehensive and binding military embargo on Israel, donor states, international agencies and nongovernmental organizations are complicit in an unjust and illegal policy of collective punishment, the BNC makes clear.

To complicate matters, officials in Gaza and Ramallah are already doubtful that the reconstruction plans will bring immediate aid to residents of the battered Strip. The reconstruction plan calls for a highly intricate monitoring system, with restrictive measures on the import and distribution of building materials.

This comes at the behest of the Israelis, who have long barred the entry of basic construction materials.

A new monitoring system will place security personnel and video cameras at distribution points for construction materials, and will vet both suppliers and buyers. And a central database, linked to the Palestinian Ministry of Civil Affairs, but available to Israeli intelligence agencies, will track material entering the Gaza Strip.

The details of this unfair deal were revealed in a document named the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, which outlined the UN-brokered agreement. That explains why Iranian officials are calling for all Muslim nations to come to the rescue of the Palestinians in Gaza – instead of an unfair deal approved and monitored by the Zionist regime of Israel. Without question, the new international aid and/or reconstruction mechanism signed in Cairo is sluggish, complicated, restricted, insufficient, politicized, pro-Israel and lacking good intentions - considering the enormity of the needs.

Iran Pledges Aid to Lebanese Army



Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani (right) in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran said it is ready to provide aid to the Lebanese army as well as the Hezbollah resistance movement to help combat "terrorists."

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was quoted as saying that "supporting the Lebanese nation, army and resistance will still remain on Iran's agenda".

"Iran is ready to transfer its experience in order to improve security in Lebanon and the region, and to combat terrorists," he said during

a meeting with visiting Lebanese Defense Minister Samir Moqbel. Moqbel also met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and Defense Minister Hussein Dehqan.

Dehqan has said Tehran is ready to provide modern military equipment and strategic assistance to the Lebanese army to help it combat extremists.

During a meeting with Moqbel, Dehqan said such aid would have the aim of "consolidating national authority and reinforcing security in Lebanon".

Shamkhani visited Beirut last month, where he exchanged views with senior Lebanese officials on ways to bolster bilateral defense cooperation.

The war in neighboring Syria has left Lebanon deeply vulnerable. In August the violence spilled across the border when militants from Syria briefly overran the border town of Arsal, killing and kidnapping several Lebanese soldiers and police.

The Iranian media reported that Tehran would provide the army with semi- heavy machine guns and ammunition, 120 mm mortars, 120 mm ammunition, 60 mm ammunition, TOW anti-armor missiles, TOW rockets, 155 mm artillery shells, night vision goggles, and T-55 and T-62 tank ammunition.

Echoing Shamkhani, Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif voiced Tehran's readiness to provide modern military equipment and strategic assistance to the Lebanese army "to enable it to gain an upper hand in its fight against terrorism".

And there are those of them who made a covenant with Allah: If He give us out of His grace, we will certainly give alms and we will certainly be of the good.

The Holy Qur'an (9.72)

Holy

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr) 1

Evening(Maghreb) 17:40

Dawn(Fajr)" Tomorrow" 04:52

Sunrise "Tomorrow" 06:16

Iraqi PM in Tehran to Discuss War on ISIL

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi was to visit Iran on Monday for talks on Baghdad's battle against ISIL, which holds swathes of the country, his office said.

The one-day trip was part of Abadi's bid "to unite the efforts of the region and the world to help Iraq in its war against the terrorist group", it said in a statement.

The visit also aimed to strengthen cooperation between the two neighbors "in the fields of energy, and housing and construction" among other areas.

Iraq is fighting to push back ISIL, which overran much of the country's Sunni Arab heartland in a lightning offensive in June.

Tehran is a key backer of the government in Baghdad.

According to senior Iraqi Kurdish officials, Iranian forces played a role in the Turkmen town of Amerli, where security forces and allied militiamen broke a months-long ISIL siege at the end of August.

On the eve of PM Abadi's visit. (Continued on Page 7)



Failed Hoax

RESALAT: Enemies are trying to destabilize Iran's borders because they failed in their efforts to topple the government in Syria. Those who are trying to destabilize Iran's borders are in for nothing because they will similarly fail. Iran protects its borders with the help of its Sunni and Shia forces.

Red Line

RESALAT: No one can cross the red lines drawn by the leadership and that includes the ongoing nuclear talks. Enemies have done everything to sideline Iran but to no avail. It's been all to the leadership and his guidelines that we are where we are now: Strong, developed and influential.

Nuclear Deal

ETTELAAT: It is still possible for Iran and the P5+1 to reach a deal in nuclear talks by November. It takes trust and determination to do just that – by both sides. There are still differences in almost all issues and that explains why no deal is still on the table.

Plain Truth

JOMHOURI ESLAMI: Both the United States and ISIL goons are doomed to failure because they don't follow the truth. They have also failed tragically and completely in Syria because what they went after was not based on truth or reality. Syria has the full backing of Iran because they are allies.

Turkey Mum on Death of Press TV Reporter FIRIT (Dispatches) as A Lebas hotel where she was staying to co

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- A Lebanese-American journalist covering the Syrian conflict for Iran's Press TV was killed in a car accident in Turkey, which her family and employers say was premeditated by the Turkish authorities, the station said Monday.

"Serene Shim was killed on Sunday as she was in Turkey on a mission on the Turkish side of the border across from Syria's strategic town of Kobani to cover the ongoing war there between the ISIL terrorists and Kurdish fighters," a Press TV report said.

Shim was returning to her hotel from reporting in the Turkish city of Suruç when the car she was traveling in collided with a heavy vehicle. The identity and whereabouts of the truck driver remain unknown, the report added.

A Press TV reporter in Beirut said the station was skeptical about the reported circumstances of Shim's death, because she arrived in Turkey almost 10 days ago and had been closely monitored by Turkish intelligence.

"She told us in an earlier message that intelligence people visited the

hotel where she was staying to collect information about her background and to keep a close eye on her," Ali Rizk told The Daily Star.

"Moreover, the truck driver who collided with her car has disappeared, and we are not aware that the Turkish authorities are investigating the accident, or searching for the driver. All these facts made the station question Serene's death," Rizk added.

Shim had told the station Friday that the Turkish intelligence agency accused her of spying and that she feared being arrested, the TV report

Members of Shim's family said they did not believe she died in a normal accident in Turkey and that they would pursue the matter legally, the station reported.

Press TV News Director Hamid Reza Emadi called on the Turkish government "to find out exactly what happened" to Serena, describing the accident as "suspicious", the report said.

Shim, a mother of two, worked for Press TV in Lebanon, Iraq, and Ukraine.

Four Suspects Arrested Over Acid Attacks

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian authorities have arrested four people suspected of throwing acid on women, according to a report by the official IRNA news agency.

A string of acid attacks against at least two women in the central city of Isfahan last week prompted a loud public outcry. According to Iranian law, the four suspects, if convicted, could face the death penalty.

The IRNA report doesn't reveal the identities of the suspects or their possible motives.

Gholamhussein Mohseni Ejehei, a spokesman for the Iranian judiciary, told the Fars news agency Monday that the suspects, if convicted, should receive harsh sentences as a message to other potential attackers. "The perpetrators of such acts should be punished, but pre-emptive punishment so others do not dare to do such actions," he said.

Hojatolislam Muhammad Taghi Rahbar, a senior cleric in Isfahan, has condemned the attacks, saying that "such an act under any pretext is reprehensible".