

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## Egypt Doing Dirty Work for Israel

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*This is not the right time for the United Nations Security Council to issue a worthless statement condemning Israel's latest round of settlement expansion as a violation of international law.*

*The Security Council should also stop its routine warning that the plans cast doubt on their seriousness toward reaching a peace deal. This is not the right time to talk about that bogus peace deal either – because no one is buying it.*

*The criminal regime of Israel has no intention to stop the settlement expansions, and no matter what the UN says, no concessions will be made to the Palestinians to facilitate peace talks. Just ask Cairo, which is now busy doing the dirty work for the Zionist regime along the Egyptian border with the Gaza Strip:*

*Egypt's military junta is expelling the civilian population from the area to level the entire neighborhood and build a "buffer zone" with the besieged city, where the entire social and physical infrastructure of housing, hospitals, places of worship, more than 130 of schools, plus markets, water systems, sewer systems and roads are still in ruins.*

*Other arbitrary actions are also expected to be taken in order to further the isolation of Gaza, use Sinai and its inhabitants as a platform for political gains, and reassert the relevance of the "buffer zone", the Egyptian army and its annual U.S. budget.*

*No wonder Zionist leaders and media outlets are lauding Cairo's latest move: The Israeli army is now able to shoot at Palestinians in the "buffer zone" without entering the area!*

*Gaza has long used tunnels into Sinai to smuggle in basic goods denied them by the Israeli blockade, and the Egyptian-Israeli plan includes trenches full of water to drown anyone in those tunnels. The ultimate goal is to create the biggest super-max prison on earth and make the enforcement of Israeli occupation even more efficient.*

*Egyptian officials claim they are trying to stop Hamas from smuggling weapons out of the tiny strip to support the various Sinai militants that have been opposing them since last summer's coup!*

*But there's no evidence to support this bizarre claim, and it seems extremely unlikely, as smuggling usually goes the other way with those tunnels. Besides, Hamas, which is working to end the siege, has no interest in carrying out bloody attacks on Egyptian soldiers that will only prolong the suffering of Gazans.*

*The new conspiracy by Cairo, Tel Aviv and Washington is far more despicable and bigger than the failed Arab-Israeli peace plans of the past: They are working together to ensure Palestinians will never get a bigger share of their occupied lands, will never have a normal life, will never see any return of refugees, and will never be able to resist Israel's next onslaught.*

*According to aid agency Oxfam, it may take 50 years to rebuild Gaza. So it is evident that the U.S.-funded "no-go area" is not being built to facilitate reconstruction efforts either. Quite the opposite, it is there to make sure reconstruction efforts will also fail and/or Palestinians will never be able to continue to fight for survival in a modern incarceration facility called Gaza.*

*Despite the fact that it violates international law and Palestinians' rights, the UN and its lame Security Council have agreed to conspire in this new version of the blockade.*

*Why not? History tells us that they are under direct control of the United States, the Zionist lobby and European allies. History also tells us that in their dubious and destructive self-righteousness, they have all decided that Palestinians have no right to exist on their own land.*

# Senior Cleric: Acid Attacks 'a Plot'



Hojatolislam Kazem Seddiqi leads Tehran Friday Prayers at Tehran University.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A senior cleric said here on Friday the recent acid attacks against women in Iran are plots aimed at sabotaging a parliamentary bill empowering people to further promote moralities in the society.

"Some people are trying to create the impression that promotion of virtue and prevention of vice is to disrupt public security," Kazem Seddiqi told worshippers at weekly Friday prayers here.

Acid attacks are "a plot to over-

shadow the legislation on promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, which is a religious obligation", he said.

Reports of a spate of recent acid attacks against women in the central city of Isfahan have sparked grave concerns among the Iranian public and led to widespread speculations in the press and social media.

Iranian authorities say security forces have arrested a number of suspects in connection with the

attacks, but have not confirmed claims that the women were attacked because they were not dressed appropriately as required by the Islamic dress code.

Seddiqi also condemned the attacks as "acts against conscience, morality, Sharia and law", calling on officials to firmly deal with the assaults.

In another part of his speech, he said that Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution triggered a campaign against the global arrogance.

The Holy Qur'an

Verily the Hour is coming - My design is to keep it hidden - for every soul to receive its reward by the measure of its Endeavour. Therefore let not such as believe not therein but follow their own lusts, divert thee therefrom, lest thou perish!

The Holy Qur'an (20:17)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:47
Evening (Maghreb)	17:28
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:01
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:26

"Following the takeover of the den of espionage (the U.S. Embassy in Tehran) on November 4, 1979, a campaign was launched against hegemonic powers," he said.

Seddiqi noted that Washington has created a "disgraceful record" for itself in its dealings with Iran and other nations.

Gholam-Hussein Mohseni-Ejei, Iran's prosecutor-general, who travelled to Isfahan this week, called the attacks "savage" and insisted they could not have been inspired by Islamic teachings.

Members of President Hassan Rouhani's cabinet have visited some of the victims in hospital, while the president has urged people not to "question the country's whole security because of one incident" which he said was "the most heinous act a vicious person can do".

(Continued on Page 7)

## Iran Defends Human Rights Record

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- Iran defended its human rights record on Friday, striking back at the West for its criticism about a woman hanged for murder.

Muhammad Javad Larijani, secretary general of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, was responding to calls from Western powers, including the United States, at a UN debate to allow freedoms of expression and religion, as well as their concerns at a rise in executions.

Reyhaneh Jabbari was hanged at dawn on Saturday in Tehran's Evin prison for the murder of man she claimed had tried to rape her. The dead man's relatives refused to grant a reprieve within the 10-day deadline set by Sharia law in force since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"We were not successful to solicit forgiveness from the hearts of victims. So the execution went

on. Though we are very sorry that two nationals lost lives, but capital punishment or 'qisas' is a unique particularity of our system. I think it worth Western countries to look into it," Larijani said.

"The idea that only good things in western community - the 'West and the rest' - this is a very destructive idea of human rights," he told the Geneva forum holding a regular review of Iran's record.

Larijani said he had asked the man's relatives to forgive Jabbari and spare her life.

"Unfortunately we were not able, perhaps one reason for that was the huge propaganda that was created against this case. In my last meeting with the son of the victim, I requested him very humbly to forgive, I told him: 'you lost a loved one, forgive, this is the teaching of the Qur'an'.

"He said 'we had the intention to

forgive. But with this media blitz, officials are accusing our father of being engaged in force and violent rape, we cannot have his humiliation'."

Due process and the independence of Iran's judiciary was enshrined in its constitution, Larijani said. Judicial and prison staff were

being trained in human rights.

Iran did not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, or religion and allowed activist groups to work, he said.

But UN sanctions imposed on Iran for its nuclear program and "unilateral coercive measures against our citizens" (Continued on Page 7)

## Press Digest

### Helping Enemies

**RESALAT:** Any difference among regional countries only serves the interests of foreign sides. Strengthening unity among Muslim states should be a prioritized policy by everyone. Muslims shouldn't practice hostility towards each other, but should support each other in dealing with important global issues.

### Regional Campaign

**ABRAR:** The Persian Gulf Arab littoral states should join the fight against terrorism and extremism. Iran favors restoration of peace and stability in the region and is opposed to terrorism and extremism. Cooperation and participation of every regional country in the campaign against terrorism and extremism is a necessity.

### Foreign Meddling

**SHARQ:** Western officials should never interfere in Iran's judiciary affairs. Under the law, the public aspect of a crime like murdering an individual requires 15 years behind bars. Its private aspect, which depends on the close relatives of the murdered person, requires death, which is beyond the judiciary's powers.

### Zionist Racism

**QODS:** Human and civil rights organizations publicly criticize Israel's de facto racism. It is time for the world to stop hiding behind technical arrangements and admit that the new Zionist procedure is pure racial segregation in occupied Palestine.

### Western Blindness

**KHORASAN:** It is a persistent policy by the West to abuse differences between Sunni and Shia communities. The policy of Western powers is self-serving and intentional: It makes it easier to ally themselves with the theocratic monarchies of the Persian Gulf without having to admit they have joined a bigoted and sectarian agenda.

## Official: CO2 Emission Rates Alarming

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's rate of carbon dioxide emissions is alarming, and it's time to start following the international community's lead, an industry official said.

A review from the World Bank finds Iranian emissions far outpacing its counterparts in Central Asia and the Middle East. Muhammad Reza Katouzian, the director of Iran's Research Institute of the Petroleum Industry, said the country was in the top tier in terms of CO2 emissions.

"Today, a great number of companies and businesses have defined a specific strategy for reducing the release of carbon dioxide, a path that we should follow, too," he said in comments published Friday by the Iranian oil ministry.

Analysis from the U.S. Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center finds CO2 emissions from Iran have increased at an average rate of 6.3% per year since 1954. Production of crude oil and petroleum products account for nearly half of those emissions, which scientists have linked to climate change.

Members of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce told the oil ministry's news website Shana last week the government should work to push oil revenue slowly out of the national budget.

On Wednesday, Tehran said non-oil product exports earned Iran \$27 billion during the first five months of a calendar year beginning March 21.