

## The Best Solution to Save Iraq

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iraq's security and volunteer forces have been making progress in both Ramadi and Baiji and it's not surprising.

The united forces have launched large-scale operations aimed at severing the supply lines of the ISIL militants who control most of Anbar, a vast Sunni province in western Iraq of which Ramadi is the capital.

The security forces are also tightening their stranglehold on Ramadi, while ordnance disposal teams are busy removing roadside bombs and checking buildings for booby traps in re-conquered positions on the outskirts of Ramadi.

In the absence of U.S. aerial support, the yellow-and-green flags that line the sides of the newly secured roads and flutter from rooftops leave no doubt as to who is leading the fighting here: Shia-Sunni volunteer forces AND the Iraqi army.

However, as claimed by the Western media, this isn't about Iran vying for influence over Iraq's battle to retake ground from terrorists. This is about helping a neighbor as required under international law. Iran is doing the same in Syria.

With the fall of Ramadi, the province's capital, the Shia-Sunni paramilitary forces are also taking the upper hand. Sunni tribal forces in the area are being armed, with thousands of fighters attending enrollment ceremonies. The idea is to help the liberated Sunni tribal areas hold the ground while the forces prepare themselves for the next push: Liberation of Mosul.

And this isn't about sectarianism at all. Washington is free to claim otherwise, but the fact remains that U.S. credibility had fallen in Iraq when ISIL terrorists were driven from the city of Tikrit earlier this year, thanks in large part to the help from volunteer forces – Sunni and Shia.

Later the fall of Ramadi damaged Iraqis' confidence in the United States even further. And this was completed when Shia forces played a key role in retaking the strategic city at the expense of Washington's.

Disillusionment with the U.S. government is clearly understandable. The people of Iraq have no confidence in an administration that played a key role in creating the monster of ISIL in the first place. They have also come to the conclusion that only Iraqis can liberate their country and not foreign forces and terror-mongers.

Little wonder Sunni and Shia volunteer forces have now come together under the same banner to save their country. Expect more good news from Iraq, because it's the best solution to the U.S.-created crisis.

## Official: Iran Supports Yemeni Resistance

TEHRAN (Press TV) – A senior Iranian official has condemned the Saudi military aggression against Yemen, reiterating that the Islamic Republic supports resistance of the Yemeni nation in face of oppression.

Iran condemns the oppression inflicted on the Yemeni people through the Saudi airstrikes, Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said.

He also stated that the Yemeni people will not give in to acts of violence against them and will eventually emerge victorious.

Velayati added that the Islamic Republic, as declared by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, defends the entire Muslim world and the oppressed people.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the senior Iranian official reacted to a remark by France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius that Paris will

not accept a nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries that would not include access to Iran's military sites.

Velayati said Paris does not play a defining role in international politics.

Velayati, who is also the president of the Center for Strategic Research of Iran's Expediency Council, said that such remarks are aimed at appeasing certain regional parties, with which Paris has economic relations.

On May 27, Fabius said France will not accept a deal unless Tehran allows inspection of its military sites, urging other negotiating partners to adopt a similar position.

Negotiators from Iran and the P5+1 group of countries – the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany – are seeking to finalize a comprehensive deal on Tehran's nuclear program by July 30.

# Speaker: Nuclear Talks on Right Track



Worshippers hold rally in support of Iran's nuclear rights after Friday prayers in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Speaker of Iran's parliament (Majlis) Ali Larijani said Sunday the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group of global powers are moving forward with negotiations over Tehran's nuclear

program on the right track.

Addressing a gathering of Iranian governors here, Larijani added that the country's international position is closely linked to the nuclear issue.

## 'Negotiators Abiding by All Red Lines'

TEHRAN (Press TV) – First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri said Sunday the Islamic Republic's nuclear negotiating team has abided by all the red lines set by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in the nuclear talks with the P5+1 group of countries. Addressing a gathering of Iranian governors here, Jahangiri praised the performance of the Iranian delegation in the negotiations over the Islamic Republic's civilian nuclear program.

"To the best of my knowledge, I do not believe that we have a more powerful negotiating team in international diplomacy than this one in the Islamic Republic; this team is one of the strongest on the international level," Jahangiri said.

He further said that the administration of President Hassan Rouhani has invited the heads of the legislative and judicial branches of the government to various meetings on

the nuclear issue. Jahangiri added that the administration has also sought the advice of other senior experts on the matter.

The negotiating team and the president regularly brief the Leader on the nuclear talks, receive Ayatollah Khamenei's guidance and proceed to further negotiations, Jahangiri said.

Negotiators from Iran and the P5+1 group of countries – the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany – are seeking to finalize a comprehensive deal on Iran's nuclear program.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has been leading the negotiations soon after the administration of President Rouhani took office in 2013.

Zarif's deputies Seyyed Abbas Araqchi and Majid Takht-e-Ravanchi, among others, have also been involved in the talks.

## Iran Condemns Nigeria Bombing

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Iran on Sunday condemned the latest terrorist bomb attack against a mosque in Nigeria's northeastern city of Maiduguri, the capital of the restive Borno state.

"The principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is [based on] rejecting violence, extremism and terrorism and fighting this anti-human phenomenon," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said.

She also sympathized with the bereaved families of the victims as well as the Nigerian government and nation.

At least 26 people lost their lives and 28 others were injured following the bomb explosion inside the mosque in Maiduguri.

The assailant, who pretended to be a worshiper, detonated his explosives inside the mosque next to the Monday Market of Maiduguri when the afternoon prayers began at about 3:30 pm local time (1430 GMT) on Saturday.

No group or individual has so far claimed responsibility for the deadly blast, but Nigerian officials often blame such attacks on Boko Haram Takfiri terrorists, mostly active in the northeast of Africa's most populous country.

The bombing followed Boko Haram rocket attacks on a residential area in Maiduguri which killed 13 people. The rocket-propelled grenade attacks in the capital and the largest city of the restive Borno State also destroyed a number of houses.

The two attacks came a day after the inauguration of President Muhammadu Buhari, who swore to tackle the "enormous challenges" of corruption and the insurgency from the Boko Haram Takfiri group.

The Holy Qur'an

O you who believe! fight those of the unbelievers who are near to you and let them find in you hardness; and know that Allah is with those who guard (against evil).

[9.124] And whenever a chapter is revealed, there are some of them who say: Which of you has it strengthened in faith? Then as for those who believe, it strengthens them in faith and they rejoice.

The Holy Qur'an (9.124)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:02
Evening (Maghreb)	20:35
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:06
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:49

ing security of the elections, particularly at the present sensitive juncture at both regional and international levels.

He said Iran is an influential country in the Middle East region, adding, "We do not dispatch forces to [countries in] the region... [our] national security requires us to monitor the regional circumstances."

He added that elections with massive turnout would improve Iran's position and its influential role in regional equations.

"The security issues of a country are not separate from the security of region and such issues must be monitored effectively. Fortunately, Iran enjoys good security and stability amid [ongoing] regional chaos," Larijani said.

## Press Digest

### Palestinian Right

**QODS:** The world can no longer afford to stand still. The boycotts, divestment and sanctions tactics against Israel are essential tools to create a just society in occupied Palestine. The right of return for Palestine refugees to their homes from where they were forcibly removed cannot be compromised either. It's a right guaranteed by international law and enshrined in UN General Assembly Resolution 194.

### Energy Supply

**ASR EQTESADI:** New lucrative energy deals between Iran and its partners serve as further proof that Washington's desperate efforts to influence global energy policy, particularly policies that involve unjustified sanctions against Iran, is diminishing. The irony is that Washington has been putting pressure on the EU firms not to ink deals with Tehran for gas supply, even though it is in their strategic interest to do so. Despite the politicization of the issue, Tehran is still open to doing business with the EU in its energy sector.

### Permanent Occupation

**AFTAB:** The U.S. occupying troops will remain in Iraq for decades to come - irrespective of what Obama claims. No one in his right mind would ever believe that the U.S. has any plans to shut down its military bases the world over. All these notorious base sites have been around supposedly for training and support since World War II. This is a fact that the Iraqi people should keep in mind when they defeat the terrorist group of ISIL.

### Regional Discourse

**RESALAT:** Regional powers such as Iran, Russia and China share a common interest in limiting the political influence of the United States in Central Asia. This particular strategy, also known as roadblock to U.S., has led the Shanghai Cooperation Organization extend to Iran observer status in 2005 and offer full membership in 2009. Iran's relations with the regional organization, which is dominated by Russia and China, represent the most extensive diplomatic ties Tehran has ever shared since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.