

# Kayhan International

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Managing Director: Hamid Najafi

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,  
Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## America Is Shamed

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The United Nations Human Rights Committee has given 'failing grade' to the United States on human rights.

A new report by the Committee excoriates the U.S. for its continued human rights violations. It focuses on violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the country is party.

The report mentions numerous human rights issues where the U.S. is failing: Guantanamo, NSA surveillance, accountability for human rights violations, drone strikes, racism in the prison system, racial profiling, police violence, and criminalization of the homeless.

The Committee says the U.S. was given an entire year to address its concerns, but the U.S. failed to act with a sense of urgency. It is utter disregard for the lives of people of color in policies, and in the daily actions of local law enforcement officials, who are positioned within the system to uphold these policies and the state's many systems of oppression.

As is, the U.S. is still pressing forward with military commissions, which violate international human rights standards. Torture corrupts everything it touches, and America's military commissions are no exception.

The UN says detainees in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay remain in prison cells without charge or trial. There is no plan to abandon the dysfunctional and second-class legal system known as military commissions either.

Not only do those detainees lack rights to a fair trial, but they continue to endure torture and abuse as the political class in America ignores the fact that most never committed any crimes against the United States.

The UN committee is further concerned with "the limited number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of members of the Armed Forces and other agents of the US government, including private contractors" for unlawful killings in its international operations and "torture" in CIA black sites during the Bush years.

It welcomes the closing of the CIA black sites, but criticizes the "meager number of criminal charges brought against low-level operatives" for abuses carried out under the CIA's rendition, interrogation and detention program. The committee also finds fault with the fact that many details of the CIA's torture program "remain secret, thereby creating barriers to accountability and redress for victims".

In other words, rather than be held accountable, the top-level U.S. government officials responsible for authorizing torture and other crimes and violations have been given comfort in the public sphere.

There are international laws to protect those rights - laws with which the U.S. and every nation-state are bound to comply. Even as the U.S. commonly condemns other countries for their human rights abuses, it is yet to stop the same abuses, let alone commit itself to the noble struggle for human rights.

## UK Removes Iran Firms From Sanctions List

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Britain has removed two Iranian companies operating in the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors from its list of entities subject to asset freeze.

In a statement, the UK Treasury said Thursday it had taken Petropars Aria Kish Operation and Management (POMC) and Petropars Resources Engineering Kish (PRE) off its sanctions list.

The decision came after the two companies successfully applied to have their sanctions listings annulled before the General Court of the EU in May and the time to appeal the court ruling expired.

"The 2-month-and-10-day period in which it was possible for the EU Council to appeal this decision has now passed, and accordingly HM Treasury has published a notice announcing

their delisting," the UK Treasury's statement said.

The companies had argued that the council had made an error of assessment in deciding that they had provided support to the Iranian government to avoid sanctions.

In its May ruling, the General Court of the EU however dismissed the applications to annul the sanctions listings of two other Iranian energy companies -- Petropars Iran Co. (PPI) and Petropars Oilfields Services Co. (POSCO).

The tribunal argued that the two companies were entirely owned by Petropars Ltd (PPL) which had allegedly helped the Iranian government circumvent the sanctions.

Petropars Ltd had minority shares in POMC and PRE where other shareholders had no in-

terest in assisting the government, the court had said in its argument.

"Therefore the Court annulled the sanctions listing of POMC and PRE but not PPI or POSCO," it added.

Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached between Iran and the P5+1 earlier this month and endorsed by the EU and the UN Security Council, all sanctions on the Islamic Republic must be lifted.

Earlier this week, the European Union committed to removing Iran's former minister of defense, retired Brig. Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, from its sanctions list.

He is among a group of Iranian military officers, nuclear scientists and defense institutions set to be delisted in the wake of the finalized nuclear talks.

# 'Fair Criticisms Should Be Tolerated'



Tehran interim Friday Prayers leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Khatami addresses worshippers.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian cleric said on Friday the critics of an agreement reached between Iran and the P5+1 should continue to be allowed to voice their opinions, emphasizing, however, that appraisals should be constructive.

"There is no reason for unfairness. Let us see the strong and weak points, speak of the strong points in a friendly manner and warn of the weak ones," Tehran interim Friday Prayers leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Khatami said in a sermon to

worshippers.

"Let us allow room for constructive criticism," he said, adding, "If we call any criticism destruction, then scholars and elites will withdraw from debates."

"This atmosphere should continue to remain open; and, of course, critics should criticize constructively," the senior Iranian cleric said.

He said the final text of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) should be examined thoroughly and carefully.

"The nuclear issue is not a factional one; rather, it is a national matter concerning all," Ayatollah Khatami said.

"No one should seek factional advantages out of it because the desired result will not happen. The

## Bahraini Accusations Against Iran False

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian diplomat has strongly condemned a recent bombing in Bahrain, flatly rejecting remarks by a Bahraini minister that the terrorist attack was linked to Iran.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hussein Amir-Abdollahian on Thursday denounced the July 28 bomb explosion in Bahrain's eastern island of Sitra, situated 12 kilometers (7 miles) southeast of the capital, Manama, which claimed the lives of two police officers.

A third officer was seriously injured and five other officers sustained light to moderate injuries.

Amir-Abdollahian dismissed Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmed Al Khalifa's claim about a link between Tehran and the deadly blast as totally "untrue". He said the accusation was completely deliberate as it was made when Iranian Foreign Minister Mohamed Javad Zarif was starting a diplomatic tour of regional countries.

"Unfortunately, the tribal behavior of some radical elements within the Bahraini government, and their deliberate insult to Muslims' religious beliefs have caused a gaping rift between the government and the people

in Bahrain," the Iranian deputy foreign minister pointed out.

"We advise the Bahraini foreign minister to think of playing a positive and constructive role regarding the collective security in the region, and [bringing about] national reconciliation between the Bahraini government and its people instead of stoking religious strife in Bahrain and the region," Amir-Abdollahian said.

The senior Iranian official added that the Al Khalifa regime's systematic human rights abuses and security crackdown will further complicate the situation in Bahrain, emphasizing that Tehran only supports a political solution to the crisis in the Arab monarchy.

On Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marziyeh Afkham also denounced the terror attack in Bahrain.

Bahrain claimed on Saturday that it had foiled an arms and explosives smuggling plot by two Bahrainis with ties to Iran. Later, Manama also claimed that the explosives used in the Sitra bombing were similar to those allegedly seized after being smuggled from Iran.

Afkham also dismissed the claim as "Bahraini state media propaganda."

The Holy Qur'an

The hypocritical men and the hypocritical women are all alike; they enjoin evil and forbid good and withhold their hands; they have forsaken Allah, so He has forsaken them; surely the hypocrites are the transgressors.

The Holy Qur'an (9.67)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:10
Evening (Maghreb)	20:29
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:35
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:11

nuclear issue is a national issue and we should all help to bring about its success and fruition," he said.

He also thanked Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and the nuclear negotiating team for their efforts during the course of the talks with the P5+1 that culminated in the agreement.

Representatives from Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Germany succeeded in finalizing the JCPOA in the Austrian capital, Vienna, on July 14 after 18 days of intense negotiations and all-nighters that capped around 23 months of talks between Iran and the six other countries.

Under the JCPOA, limits will be put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all economic and financial bans, against the Islamic Republic.

The Security Council on July 20 unanimously endorsed a draft resolution turning the JCPOA into international law. All 15 members of the world body voted for the draft UN resolution in New York.

## Press Digest

### Blood and Dust

VATAN EMROOZ: Ansarullah has been defending for almost five months now, something that all the fat generals in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates couldn't do in the 6-day Israeli-Arab War of the 1960s. Golden pages are being written in the history of Yemen, lauding the resistance fighters who are maintaining their couth and have demonstrated against all odds that they are a force to be reckoned with. They have done an impossible job in five months, something that 10 Arab armies failed to do collectively in more than 50 years. Little wonder they have now joined Israel to demolish Yemen.

### Doomed Sanctions

DONYAYE EQTESAD: The sanctions regime will collapse if Washington were seen as responsible for the failure of nuclear deal. Tehran has so far lived up to its obligations under the deal and has nothing to lose if it fails. If Iran were not to blame, the sanctions regime could fall apart. A number of countries already don't respect sanctions and are buying Iranian oil. Many global companies have also signed lucrative energy deals with Tehran. This is not surprising. Tehran is still a reliable energy supplier.

### Killing Civilians

SIASAT ROOZ: Non-combatant deaths have been going on for months and the U.S. military's admission ignores widely available evidence in Syria. Despite the denial, images and details of children's deaths circulating on social media suggest the U.S.-led attacks have killed a large number of civilians. Watchdog groups warn that many more civilian casualties have gone uncounted.

### Mideast Violence

AFTAB: The U.S.-led warmongers have destabilized the Middle East, creating a new wave of violence and bloodshed in a region already troubled by too many conflicts. Anti-American sentiments have been stirred across the region and this will cause new troubles for the White House. This does little to enhance U.S. interests, neither does pursuing the policy of might makes right.