

## Stabbing Russia in the Back

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*Turkey's utter hypocrisy and reckless hit on a Russian fighter jet over Syria should never come as surprise to anyone.*

After all, along with the United States, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Turkey has played a leading role in fomenting terrorism and extremism in Syria since in 2011. Acting as "Jihadist Super-Highway", it has aided, abetted, and funded ISIL by keeping its southern border open with Syria, allowing radical jihadists from Europe to cross back and forth from ISIL-controlled territory, thereby enabling them to return to Europe to plot and execute such attacks as were recently carried out in the French capital.

More so, Turkish commodity dealers have funded ISIL through their purchase of, by one estimate, \$50 million a month in black-market oil. Indeed, reports have surfaced suggesting that none other than Erdogan's son Bilal has been a key financial benefactor of this criminal business. So Erdogan's motives for the shoot-down are not terribly difficult to divine, and they have little to do with the alleged violation of Turkey's sovereign airspace.

Lest we forget, at the G20 Summit in Antalya, Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed aerial surveillance and satellite imagery showing a miles-long line of oil-tanker trucks stretching from ISIL-controlled territory into Turkey. And worse, from Erdogan's standpoint, was the decision made by French President François Hollande to bypass NATO and instead appeal to the EU to invoke its mutual assistance clause, all the while advocating for a coalition against ISIL that would include the Russians and the Iranians. The shoot-down was foolishly designed to ensure that NATO gets in the game, which is exactly what Erdogan, as a treaty member, wants. It is not going to happen though.

NATO policy holders are not having any of it. And while President Obama seem to express support for the Turkish attack, NATO envoys seem largely uncomfortable with the foolish incident, urging Turkey to show "restraint" in the future with planes along their border. Moreover, some EU diplomats have expressed serious concern about Turkey's actions, saying there are "other ways" to deal with an incursion beyond just shooting the plane down. Indeed, the Pentagon says they can't even confirm the plane ever entered Turkish airspace.

President Putin is correct to say this was "a stab in the back" by the accomplices of international terrorists. Moscow was not stabbed in the back by Ankara alone. The United States, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are also responsible. They are directly aiding "moderate" terrorists to affect regime change in Damascus.

Russia, Iran and Syria are involved in the real war on all manners of terrorism and extremism. In the absence of such alliance, Europe will be drowned by the rising tide of Syrian refugees. It's all the reason why the EU is telling Turkey to stop acting like a fool. The reality is that their regime-change fantasy has turned into a nightmare and they want out.

In summation, Moscow has decided not to retaliate in kind, which is praiseworthy. However, the shoot-down will still have some serious consequences for the Moscow Ankara toes. Moscow has already decided to deploy new air defense equipment to the Syria-Turkey border, all while cutting military contact with Ankara. It is by now self-evident that the reckless shoot-down has had the opposite results.

## Railway Deal Signed With Russia

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran and Russia have signed an agreement worth 1.2 billion euros to electrify a train line, linking north-central Iran to the northeastern border with Turkmenistan, an official says.

The agreement signed between Russian Railways and the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) envisages constructing power stations and overhead power lines along the Garmsar-Sari-Gorgan-Inche Burun route in Iran.

"The implementation of the contract will improve the capacity of passenger trains and raise transit to 8 million tons," said RAI Managing Director Mohsen Poursaeed-Aqaei who signed the document.

The train line, among the first in Iran with a history of 80 years, extends to Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan and links the Central Asia to the Per-

sian Gulf and beyond.

The project will be financed by the Russian government and will be implemented in 36 months, which includes manufacturing all electric locomotives inside Iran, electrifying 495 kilometers of railway and building 32 stations and 95 tunnels.

"With the implementation of this contract, besides the electrification of the line, tunnels on the way will be enlarged, enabling Russian and other transit wagons to ply conveniently on it," Poursaeed-Aqaei said.

"Overall, we will witness the establishment of an electrified and modern train line in the country's north," he added.

The signing came as President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran on Monday to attend a summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

Russia will be financing the project as part of its

# U.S. State Department: JCPOA Not Legally Binding



Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif, left, shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at the end of negotiations in Vienna on July 14, 2015.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. President Barack Obama didn't require Iranian officials to sign the nuclear deal that his team negotiated with Tehran, and the deal is not "legally binding", his administration has said.

"The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is not a treaty or an executive agreement, and is not a

signed document," wrote Julia Frifield, the State Department assistant secretary for legislative affairs, in a letter.

Frifield wrote the letter in response to a letter to Representative Mike Pompeo (R., Kan.) sent Secretary of State John Kerry, in which he observed that the deal the president had submitted to Congress was unsigned

and wondered if the administration had given lawmakers the final agreement.

Frifield's response emphasizes that Congress did receive the final version of the deal. But by characterizing the JCPOA as a set of "political commitments" rather than a more formal agreement, it is sure to heighten congressional concerns that the sides might violate the deal's terms.

"The success of the JCPOA will depend not on whether it is legally binding or signed, but rather on the extensive verification measures we have put in place, as well as Iran's understanding that we have the capacity to re-impose — and ramp up — our sanctions if Iran does not meet its commitments," Frifield wrote to Pompeo.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani discouraged his nation's parliament from voting on the nuclear deal in or-

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:51
Evening (Maghreb)	17:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:22
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:50

### The Holy Qur'an

Has not the account reached you of those before you, of the people of Nuh and Ad and Samood, and those after them? None knows them but Allah. Their apostles come to them with clear arguments, but they thrust their hands into their mouths and said: Surely we deny that with which you are sent, and most surely we are in serious doubt as to that to which you invite us.  
The Holy Qur'an (14:9)

## Iran Condemns Terrorist Bombing in Tunisia

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran on Wednesday strongly condemned a bomb attack on a bus carrying presidential guards in Tunisia which killed at least 12 people.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber-Ansari said that the terrorist bombing "targeted stability, security and achievements of Tunisia's popular revolution" and expressed hope that the Tunisian government and people will safeguard the "cause of Tunisia's revolution" through their solidarity.

The Iranian official also offered the Islamic Republic's condolences to the North African government and nation over the attack.

At least 12 people were killed and 20 others wounded when a bomb struck a bus carrying Tunisian presidential guards in the capital, Tunis, on Tuesday.

The government described the blast on a three-lined avenue in the heart of Tunis as a terrorist attack.

The blast was likely caused by a bomber detonating explosives inside the vehicle, a presidential source

said. No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Following the attack, Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi declared a 30-day state of emergency across the country and imposed an overnight curfew for the capital.

Speaking on national television, Essebsi said Tunisia is at "war against terrorism" and urged international cooperation against extremists.

The explosion came days after officials increased the security level in the capital and deployed security forces in high numbers.

It was the third major attack in Tunisia this year after a militant killed 38 foreigners at a beach hotel in the resort of Sousse in June, and gunmen killed 21 tourists at the Bardo Museum in Tunis in March. Daesh Takfiri terrorist group claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Tunisia has been plagued by violence since the 2011 uprising that ousted former dictator, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who had been in power for over two decades.

## Press Digest

### Looking Other Way

**QODS:** The United States and others that arm President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's government are looking the other way as his forces abuse citizens under the dubious logic that he is aiding the fight against ISIL - that spawn of the Iraq War. This includes the Islamic Research Council of Al-Azhar University, which claims the Gaza tunnels are being used to threaten Egypt's security. This has to stop.

### Evil Desire

**KHORASAN:** Because of Washington's desire for regime change in Damascus and its plans to divide Iraq, the U.S. government has been delaying aid to the Iraqi government too. Iran and Russia, on the other hand, have stepped in to militarily help Baghdad, alongside Syria, to fight the theatrical organization of ISIL. While the U.S. is covertly supporting the division of Iraq, Israel is overtly supporting this too.

### Dark Policy

**MIZAN:** There can be no question that Washington's new dark of night policy is not to reduce what the Pentagon might call the U.S. military footprint in the Middle East. Obama's key officials seem to be opting not for blunt-edged, Bush-style militarism, but for what might be thought of as a new colonial scheme: A much more aggressive military program as regards the resistance group of Ansarullah to force them into surrender.

### Risky Business

**HEMAYAT:** Riyadh's allies, including the United States, are getting entrapped in a risky military adventure where the Saudis do not even have an exit strategy. The lack of an exit strategy is especially annoying, because the cost of the war is rising at a time when Riyadh is running a sizeable budget deficit due to low oil revenues. The war on Yemen is going nowhere, just as in Iraq and Syria.