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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Liberation of Mosul

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iraqi troops and volunteer forces are yet to fulfill their pledge to liberate the city of Mosul from ISIL.

Iraqi officials now say they will have a full victory in a few months. The United States has offered "advisers" and attack helicopters for the battle, but for obvious reasons it has done the opposite.

After all, it was Washington and its allies that admittedly created ISIL and ripped open old wounds to revive divisions between Sunni and Shia Muslims under the full spectrum dominance doctrine. Baghdad is in the know. That's why deep inside it's not happy to see the U.S. being part of the Mosul operation.

Perhaps that also explains why the Pentagon says the city may not be liberated anytime soon. It doesn't change the fact that the foreign-backed terrorist group has been losing many battles and territory in both Iraq and Syria.

The terrorist group has consistently lost territory throughout 2016. It just lost the city of Aleppo in Syria. Due to the military intervention by Iran and Russia, the losses also include large swathes of Syria's northern border with Turkey, including the Tal Abyad border crossing, which was the group's main access point to the Turkish border from their de-facto capital Raqqa.

This has had a negative financial impact on ISIL due to the loss of control of the border crossing prior to the recent intensification of Russian-Syrian airstrikes against the group's oil smuggling business. Other substantial losses in Iraq include the Iran-backed liberation of Tikrit and Ramadi, the fiercely contested Baiji refinery complex, and a stretch of the main highway between Raqqa and Mosul, which complicates the transfer of goods and terrorists between the two largest ISIL-controlled cities.

This clearly indicates ISIL is overstretched and soon it will be even more heavily overstretched when the operation to liberate Mosul is complete. Indeed, the ongoing offensive, although complex, is a done deal. That's why the Iraqi army and allied irregular troops, backed by Iranian military advisors, training, aircraft, drones, heavy artillery, surveillance and intelligence are wasting no time to retake the city. They have already liberated other key towns.

Trying to recapture Mosul makes sense. It is the biggest city held by ISIL. The liberation will shorten the supply line between Baghdad and the Turkish border. What's more, the operation is not just about Iraq. It is also about Syria. Once fully liberated, Iraq will pave the way for complete liberation of Syria.

In summation, despite the grim assessments by the Pentagon, the allied forces will win this battle too. They will dislodge the Salafi-Takfiri militants with minimum civilian casualties.

Iran Denounces Kabul Twin Terror Attacks

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Iranian Foreign Ministry has decried the recent deadly twin terror attacks in Afghanistan, reiterating Tehran's negative stance against any manner of violence for any cause.

Qassemi made the remarks and offered Iran's sympathies to the government and people

of Afghanistan.

He stressed that Iran denounces "resorting to any manner of violence and terror-related actions in any form and for any reason."

The Iranian official went on to call on all nations in the region to come together to help eradicate the scourge of terror

and violence.

Earlier in the day, at least 38 people were killed and 72 others injured in twin bomb attacks in a crowded area near Afghanistan's parliament in the capital city of Kabul.

Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for the blasts.

JCPOA Commission Urges Commitment to Iran Sanctions Lifting



The Joint Commission of the JCPOA is pictured during its first meeting at the level of political directors on October 19, 2015 at Palais Coburg in Vienna, Austria.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Iran-P5+1 Joint Commission monitoring the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal has emphasized the need for all relevant parties to honor their obligations under the accord, particularly those related to the lifting of anti-Iran sanctions.

In a Tuesday press release that was issued following its sixth meeting in Vienna, Austria, the Joint Commission said "All sides reaffirmed their strong commitment to continued full and effective implementation of the JCPOA," using an acronym for the nuclear accord, called the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"The Joint Commission underscored the sanctions lifting commitments contained in the JCPOA, in particular as they relate to the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA)," read the statement, referring to the U.S. sanctions law which has been in place against the Islamic Republic since 1996.

The body also "recognized the United States' assurance that extension of the Iran Sanctions Act does not affect in any way the sanctions lifting Iran receives under the deal or the ability of companies to do business in Iran consistent

with the JCPOA."

The JCPOA was clinched in July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, which gathers the U.S., the UK, France, Russia and China plus Germany.

As per the accord, which came into force in January 2016, the six world powers committed to lift the nuclear-relation sanctions, while Iran agreed to limit its nuclear work in certain aspects.

However, in a highly controversial move, the U.S. Congress voted last

The Holy Qur'an

If they could find a refuge or cave or a place to enter into, they would certainly have turned thereto, running away in all haste. And of them there are those who blame you with respect to the alms; so if they are given from it they are pleased, and if they are not given from it, lo! they are full of rage.

The Holy Qur'an (9:58)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:12
Evening (Maghreb)	17:31
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:45
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:14

December to extend the ISA for another 10 years. The law authorizes the U.S. president to re-impose the bans. It was first adopted in 1996 to punish investments in the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program and its support for anti-Israeli resistance groups.

The Vienna meeting focused on the concerns raised by Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif over Washington's move in a message to the European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who coordinates the commission's work.

Following the talks, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Abbas Araqchi, who headed Tehran's delegation, said the Islamic Republic "explained its concern on the extension," adding, "I think the joint commission took Iran's concern very seriously."

Press Digest

Better Than Inflation

KAYHAN: Industry officials say inflation is a much better option that recession and unemployment. The best way to get the economy out of recession is to boost the housing market. In 2015, China did the same thing. After a drop in GDP growth, the country reignited the housing market based on the rate of inflation. It is possible to manage inflation while at the same time boost the economy and create new job opportunities.

Financial Mistakes

AFTAB: The biggest problem in the Mehr housing scheme is not the quality of materials and architecture. The problem is financial supplies. It is wrong for the Central Bank to control the scheme as it could devalue national currency with its huge finances. We all know how the bank affected house prices and how it led to bigger national debt in the past.

Polluted Days

TASNIM: The government refuses to close schools when air pollution reaches dangerous levels. The government has to take care of public health. The general public and government officials should join forces to decrease air pollution levels in cosmopolitan cities like Tehran. The problem could go away by taking a number of logical steps.

Joint Ventures

DONYAYE EQTESAD: Many foreign firms would like to invest in post-nuclear deal Iran. But there are hurdles in the way of foreign direct investment. The biggest problem is securing finance. Others include absence of banking relations with the outside world and bureaucracy. Many potential investors say these hurdles are the reasons why they prefer not to invest in Iran.