

# Kayhan International

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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**

## Who Is the Biggest Destabilizing Force in Middle East?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Defense Department, retired Marine General James Mattis, has told Congress that Iran is the "biggest destabilizing force in the Middle East."

During his Senate confirmation hearing on Thursday, "Mad Dog" Mattis said the United States needs to forge a strategy to "checkmate Iran's goal for regional hegemony. Iran is the biggest destabilizing force in the Middle East and its policies are contrary to our interests."

As previously, the international crook failed to offer any evidence to support his baseless allegations. He was unable to substantiate as to why Iran's regional policies are destabilizing. Instead, he mostly focused on Iran's lawful support for the regional resistance front as well as involvement in the ongoing war against ISIL and Al-Qaeda in Iraq and Syria.

In all cases it boils down to this: The U.S.-led regime changers have lost the war on Syria. They also hate the post-nuclear Iran for not changing its behavior after the nuclear deal.

This is not exactly what the war party had in mind when they signed the nuclear deal with Iran in 2015. They did so to force Tehran to change its behavior and get along with them in other important issues related to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. The problem is, Tehran did the exact opposite. So they branded Iran as the "top terror state," as well as "the most significant security challenge to the U.S., its allies, and its interests in the greater Middle East."

After a year of calm, the warmongers even extended the Iran Sanctions Act for another ten years – in clear violation of the nuclear treaty. Leaders from both Republican and Democratic parties now plan to move to expand existing sanctions to target Iran over activities ranging from what they call "ballistic missile testing and Persian Gulf actions to a growing cyberattack effort."

Add to the equation the arrival in Washington in January of Donald Trump who has said he would gut the nuclear deal – with a cabinet filled with harsh critics of Iran – and there's little doubt about Iran's imminent return to the war party's agenda in the coming month.

Under this option, it seems a waste of time and effort to prove that Iran is not involved in state terrorism in furtherance of political or regional objectives, much less to explain that Iran is in no way a security threat to American interests, or that what it is offering in Iraq and Syria is for pre-emption and legal.

Instead, a better option could be this: Regardless of how the new administration in Washington would respond, Iran should continue to help the national armed forces to battle foreign-backed terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria.

More so, the arming and outfitting of militants and the training of terrorist leaders in the Persian Gulf serve as further proof that consecutive U.S. administrations have lied about the so-called war on terror. Their double standard approach to the subject matter of terrorism is in fact the reason behind the ongoing surge in violence and terrorism in the Middle East and Europe.

These are only some of the overwhelming facts that managed to make it into the news and onto the record. So after considering the trail of torture, war crimes, bloods, coups, tactical missions and "humanitarian" bombs.

## Cleric Blasts Arrogant Powers for Sponsoring Terrorism

TEHRAN (Fars) – Tehran's provisional Friday Prayers Leader Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani has blasted the global arrogance, specially the U.S., for supporting and sponsoring terrorist groups in the Middle East region.

Addressing a large congregation of people at the Tehran University campus on Friday, Ayatollah Emami Kashani said, "The global arrogance is looking for creating violence in the Middle East by disintegrating Syria and Iraq." He strongly blasted the U.S. and its allies for supporting the terrorist group of Daesh in Syria and Iraq, and said, "The fall of Daesh in Syria and Iraq is very near."

# 'Stronger Iran-Turkey Ties Key to Mideast Stability'



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (L) holds talks with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish capital Ankara on April 16, 2016.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has underlined the need for promotion of cooperation between his country and neighboring Turkey in order to advance the long-term interests of the Middle East.

During a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Rouhani stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is content with closer cooperation among Ankara, Tehran and Moscow to bring about peace in the region.

He expressed satisfaction over the Syrian ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia and Turkey, stressing that all should endeavor for the truce to withhold.

The Iranian president also pointed to the forthcoming negotiations between representatives from the Damascus government and foreign-sponsored opposition groups in the Kazakh capital city of Astana on January 23, saying, "We are all determined to fight all terrorist groups in the region. I hope rela-

tive stability prevails in Syria and the region through cooperation between Iran and Turkey."

Rouhani then described terrorist groups as the common enemies of regional states and nations, and expressed "hope for the further expansion of bilateral relations and the resolution of major regional issues through mutual cooperation."

President Erdogan, for his part, underlined that his country intends to develop cooperation with Iran in all fields, noting that stronger Turkey-Iran relations could effectively help the settlement of regional problems.

"Iran and Turkey shoulder a great responsibility in the region, so they should strengthen their mutual cooperation in a bid to ease regional tensions," Erdogan pointed out.

Turning to the ceasefire in Syria and the upcoming inter-Syrian negotiations in Astana, the Turkish president said all should try to consolidate the foundations of the current ceasefire in Syria.

## Iran to Receive 130 Tons of Uranium: AEOI

TEHRAN (Press TV) -The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the country is soon to receive as much as 130 tons of uranium from abroad.

The organization's spokesman, Behrouz Kamalvandi, made the announcement while speaking to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) News.

The Joint Commission monitoring the implementation of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries approved the purchase on the part of the Islamic Republic during a meeting in the Austrian capital of Vienna on Wednesday.

Kamalvandi said that the country had previously bought 220 tons of the material, and was currently in possession of a total of 350 tons. "Given that this amounts to a valuable resource, it places us in a very

favorable position," he said.

"Of course, toward industrialization, we need more resources. Therefore, we continue to prospect and extract uranium inside the country, and have accorded priority to this task."

Kamalvandi also said the country was to produce 100 kilograms of enriched uranium, and noted that the Commission had approved that the amount of the enriched material be calculated in accordance with the method proposed by the Islamic Republic.

"Now that our interpretation of the calculation method has been approved and applied, we are soon to start cleaning out the deposits at nuclear facilities and there would be space for 100 kilos more," he said.

Iran had refrained from stocktaking until our approach was approved, he said.

Earlier, Rouhani during a meeting with Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah has underlined the need for a campaign against terrorism, which he described as a menace to the entire world.

Rouhani said security, political stability and national unity could lay the groundwork for Afghanistan's development and prosperity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no effort to assist the Afghan

The Holy Qur'an

And recite to them the story of Nuh when he said to his people: O my people! if my stay and my reminding (you) by the communications of Allah is hard on you -- yet on Allah do I rely-- then resolve upon your affair and (gather) your associates, then let not your affair remain dubious to you, then have it executed against me and give me no respite:

The Holy Qur'an (10:71)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:13
Evening (Maghreb)	18:23
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:45
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:14

government and nation, he said, adding that Iran would continue to stand by Afghanistan.

Rouhani expressed hope that joint projects will be implemented as soon as possible with the strengthening of political stability and unity in Afghanistan.

The Iranian president also said that the development of Chabahar Port and railroad networks, including the railway linking the Iranian city of Khaf to the Afghan city of Herat, could promote Tehran-Kabul cooperation.

The Afghan official, for his part, praised Iran's support for his country and welcomed further development of ties with Iran in different fields.

## Press Digest

### Runaway Prices

**KAYHAN:** Prices of basic goods are going up by the day. This is while the government refuses to increase the amount of cash handouts to people based on the subsidy program. On the contrary, the government plan is to gradually phase out the nationwide scheme. This is not good news, particularly for those families who are suffering from food poverty. Those in charge of regulating market prices have also been sitting on their hands. They sit idly by while prices go up through the roof.

### GDP Growth

**AFTAB:** Based on the latest report by the World Bank, Iran is the second growing economy in the region after Djibouti. The bank predicts Iran's GDP growth rate to reach 4.5 and 4.8 percent in 2018 and 2019 consecutively. This is while the global GDP growth rate was just about 2.3 percent in 2016, down by 0.4 percent from the previous year. The global growth rate is expected to reach 2.7, 2.9 and 2.9 percent between the period 2017 to 2019.

### A Day for Unity

**SIASAT ROOZ:** The nation paid its last respect to Ayatollah Rafsanjani, the former head of the State Expediency Council, in peace and harmony. The funeral procession put on display national unity and resolve – despite anti-Iran smear media campaigns. The biggest surprise, though, is that this was a sudden occasion that caught everyone off guard. No one was ready for this difficult time, even security forces. Still, in the end everything turned out just fine. People showed they were still together despite the political affiliations. This was largely attributed to their allegiance to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and the Islamic Republic.

### Nuclear Deal Violation

**TASNIM:** The whole world needs to know that the decision by the United States to extend the Iran Sanctions Act for another ten years is a clear violation of the nuclear deal. Government officials are expected to react as people won't take it quietly if this goes against the spirit of the nuclear deal. The late Ayatollah Rafsanjani fought for the revolution and the Islamic Republic all throughout his life. He stood by the late Imam Khomeini and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei through thick and thin. He rose from the religious school and remained faithful to his clerical background and identity 'till the end.