

# Kayhan International

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## In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

### Bahrain at a Tipping Point

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Amnesty International has warned that Bahrain is on the verge of a human rights catastrophe amid a pattern of increased violence against demonstrators, executions, and detentions.

The rights group gave the warning as nationwide protests are still underway to mark the sixth anniversary of the 2011 popular uprising against the ruling Al Khalifah regime. Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries or been arrested since then. As part of the crackdown on dissent, Bahraini authorities have dissolved several opposition groups as well, including the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society and the Islamic Enlightenment Institution, which were founded by Sheikh Qassim.

According to Amnesty International, "Bahrain is at a tipping point. The first two months of 2017 alone saw an alarming upsurge in arbitrary and abusive force by security forces as well as the first executions since the uprising in 2011. If the Al Khalifah regime does not put further control on its security forces, does not respect protesters rights, and does not halt its executions, it will be dealing with a full blown human rights crisis."

Few points are worth mentioning in this respect:

-The long suffering people of Bahrain are used to hearing nice words from human rights organizations, such as "the Bahraini government hasn't taken meaningful steps towards reform and upholding its human rights obligations." What they are yet to witness is firm action on the part of international community to support their legitimate demands for democracy and to stop this full blown human rights crisis.

-The continuing climate of impunity amid a very concerning renewed pattern of violations, including arbitrary detention and torture, is due to the fact that the Al Khalifah regime is not alone. It is but an extension of Saudi Arabia's will in the region. It has the full blown support of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and the United Kingdom, which happen to have naval bases on the tiny Persian Gulf island. They are the ones that go to great lengths to help the unelected regime to silence dissent.

-In March 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown. Scores of people lost their lives and hundreds of others were arrested and jailed. If that time the world community did nothing, it is hard to see how rights groups like Amnesty International would do something different now.

-Bahrain's uprising didn't get quite as much attention as some of the others in the Arab world. But it was one of the first, beginning on Feb. 14. For the sake of political correctness and geopolitical interests, events in Bahrain still don't make the mainstream media headlines in the West. This has allowed the regime to crackdown on the opposition as it sees fit. The West is part and parcel of the ongoing tyranny, has contributed to it, and labored to defeat the opposition.

-Despite protests, the U.S. and UK have established naval bases in Bahrain, transforming it into a main base for foreign military presence and aggression. It's a reward to the silence they provide on human rights abuses, and for their continued support of the tyrannical regime.

-This is not a Sunni-Shia struggle, as the unelected regime would like us to believe. Still, that hasn't stopped the regime to use it as temporary distraction in order to authorize the destruction and raid of Shia mosques, schools, residences and businesses. The regime has resorted to dilute the Shia population by both importing foreign nationals into the country and stripping Shia Bahrainis of their nationality.

The point is Bahrain became the one Arab country whose uprising was definitively put down. One reason is that the United States and its regional vassals wanted it that way. The uprising was suppressed in a harsh crackdown. Thousands of people were killed, wounded, rounded up, detained, and tortured. Two of those detained were elected members of parliament. Others were doctors who treated protesters, journalists who wrote about them, and lawyers who defended them. Several people also died while in custody.

Bahrain largely silenced the uprising, but not entirely: Sporadic protests still continue and human-rights groups like Amnesty condemn the government actions. Under international law, therefore, the people of Bahrain have every right to press ahead with their peaceful drive to regain their democratic rights and to keep on holding demonstrations to realize their demands.

# Basij Forces Stage Major Drills in Southeast Iran



This file photo shows Iran's Basij forces carrying out drills in southeast Iran.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's Basij volunteer forces have kicked off a major military, security and cultural drill in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

The exercises started in 19 counties across the province

## 'No Need for National Reconciliation Call'

TEHRAN (Mehr) – Head of Strategic Research Center of the Expediency Council has implied national reconciliation would not be an option when there is no clash of interests among the public.

Ali Akbar Velayati, who was speaking to the press following his meeting with Secretary-General of the Islamic Union of Kurdistan Salahuddin Bahaaddin on Wednesday, said U.S. President Donald Trump should have worked to keep his administration from falling apart and refrain from deciding for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The nation is united and keeps allegiance to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution," he said.

"A newly established administration has so far seen two changes right in its first 100 days. The head of such cabinet should take after his own administration," he added, referring to Trump administration.

Velayati said Iranians would never be intimidated by Trump's remarks, since they strongly responded his measures in February 10 rallies last week.

"Trump should take lessons from the toppling by this nation of the Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi the famous despotic king of Iran; Iran is now a great power in the region and will not abandon easily its

strong positions out of fear of such remarks and menaces," Velayati said.

On the Syrian solution and Astana upcoming meeting, Leader's senior international adviser said that any solution acceptable to Syrian people and government would also be accepted by Iran.

"Negotiations should provide the country with a just peace," he added.

"Syrian territorial integrity should be recognized; Turkey and Saudi Arabia should end their support for extremists; only under such conditions will the Astana talks be successful in security stability to the country," he told the press.

Turning to a hotly-debated issue of national reconciliation spearheaded by Reformist circles within the establishment, Velayati echoed what had been the dominant view by the establishment including the Leader himself about such demands.

"National reconciliation would seem hollow in a situation when there is no conflict among the nation. The whole nation is reconciled with the establishment and with themselves; thus, calls for reconciliation would not attract many eager minds under current situations," he said.

and will continue until February 24, the commander of the Quds Base of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force in southeastern Iran, General Muhammad Marani, said.

Seventy-six brigades of male forces and 22 brigades of female forces participate in the drills, the commander

**The Holy Qur'an**

Therefore concert your plan, and then assemble in (serried) ranks: He wins (all along) today who gains the upper hand.

The Holy Qur'an 20:65

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:18
Evening (Maghreb)	18:53
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:26
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:50

noted.

The exercises include defense and security maneuvers, search and rescue operations and crisis management, Marani said.

In recent years, Iran has made great achievements in its defense sector and reached self-sufficiency in producing essential military equipment and systems.

The Islamic Republic has conducted several military drills to enhance the defense capabilities of its armed forces and to test modern military tactics and equipment.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly assured other countries, especially the regional neighbors, that its military might poses no threat to anyone, saying that its defense doctrine is merely based on deterrence.

## Press Digest

### Call for Vigilance

**KAYHAN:** Pro-West political currents claim they support the administration of Rouhani. Now that the U.S. refuses to stick to its end of the bargain in nuclear deal the whole agreement is in jeopardy. They all acknowledge that the deal has brought no political or economic breakthrough for Iran. With the presidential election fast approaching, they seek to sow discord among the nation under whatever pretext. It demands a closer look and greater vigilance on the part of those who care for the Islamic establishment.

### National Reconciliation

**RESALAT:** Reformers have brought up the subject matter of national reconciliation. Who are these people and who are they going to talk to? These are the same currents that refused to accept the election results in 2009. They said they won the race and people's votes didn't matter. They took to the streets for eight months and paved the way for imposition of crippling sanctions against Iran. They torched down public places and killed 22 civilians during the unrest. But they couldn't force the establishment to yield.

### Raw Deal

**VATAN EMROOZ:** The post-nuclear deal forex channel has imprisoned the Iranian economy. Under the circumstances, we can only sell oil and import consumer products. It is impossible to control the foreign exchange market as whatever Iran does is being controlled by the West. The Central Bank had to use forex bureaus in Dubai in order to control the value of dollar in Iran. It is about time the government realized that the nuclear agreement was a raw deal.

### Financial Institutions

**HAMSHAHHRI:** Nationwide protests continue against private financial institutions which are unable to pay back their debts to shareholders or account holders. Based on the latest reports, the growing dissatisfaction and anger has reached the capital. It is time for the Central Bank to wake up and smell the coffee. Institutions such as Mizan, Samenol Hojaj, Caspian, Padideh, Pardisan and others have not just incurred huge financial losses to their account holders. They have also undermined the security of national economy and the credibility of the government.

## IAEA Reaffirms Iran's Peaceful Nuclear Program

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has once again confirmed that Iran is implementing the landmark nuclear agreement it signed with the P5+1 group of countries in 2015.

"Implementation is very important and that requires efforts by all and ... we have a very robust verification tool," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano told reporters on the sidelines of a

summit in Dubai.

"There is nothing political that will change our implementation," he added.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China plus Germany - started implementing the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - on January 16, 2016.

The deal, which was later enshrined in a legally-binding UN Security Council resolution, rolled back nuclear-related sanctions against Iran, which, in turn, put limits on its nuclear program.

However, on his campaign trail, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to annul the deal, which he has lambasted as "the worst accord ever negotiated" and "one of the dumbest" ones he has come across.

Washington has taken a tougher stance on Iran since President Trump took office on January 20. It said it had put Tehran "on notice" last month over carrying out a ballistic missile test.

The IAEA chief said the new U.S. administration has so far not contacted the agency, which is monitoring the JCPOA implementation.

"This is a very early stage of the

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