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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Trump's Yemen War Escalation Will Fail

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Media outlets in the West are reporting what we knew for years that the Pentagon has been quietly deploying special forces units across the Middle East, particularly in Yemen, and in several nations around Northern Africa, moves seen as a prelude to an escalation in the ongoing war on Islam on the pretext of fighting ISIL and Al-Qaeda – America's own creation.

To this end, war-party officials say the Trump Administration is more interested in using special operations' forces, and that they are particularly interested in attacking Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, saying the lack of a functioning government in Yemen justifies more U.S. operations.

Troops around the Horn of Africa and elsewhere across the continent's north are also being deployed, and while the exact details on what they're going to end up doing aren't yet clear, those familiar with the situation can say with confidence that the deployed troops will continue to do what their predecessors have been doing for years: Killing civilians and destroying nation states.

The Saudis claim the Obama administration did cede hegemony to Iran in the Middle East, and that the Trump administration has to reverse the course. They also claim Iran is in the active process of spreading its political/military hegemony throughout the northern tier of the region. Other cheap talks include Iranian troops actively participating in the Yemen war, continuing to arm the resistance and participate with, and command, further offensives against the Saudi-led invaders.

These are self-serving allegations:

1-Riyadh, Washington, Tel Aviv, and the mere extras have intentionally unraveled Yemen. They have supported the growth of terror outfits like Al-Qaeda and ISIL.

2-Under international law, the new U.S. escalation amounts to war crimes and crimes against humanity, as the offensive has no international legitimacy.

3-The terror-mongers have also escalated the failed war on Syria. There is no reason to think this time it is otherwise. According to the White House, the U.S. is coordinating closely with its cronies in the new military action, including providing intelligence and logistical support.

4-The U.S. and its vassals turned Yemen into a failed state in the hope "to stop the growing Iranian influence," save Saudi oil, and reinstate their puppet regime – which was kicked out in 2015.

5-The war is not limited to Yemen. It has had serious implications for the region. It has ignited regional instability, bringing other nations directly into an escalating conflict. Like the Syria war, blowback has been inevitable - with disastrous consequences for people.

6-This is not a "civil war" or a "strategic contest between Iran and Saudi Arabia for influence". The illegal war reflects the contest over who will control the country and the oil, and who will preserve the status quo. To this end, the military-industrial complex will continue to send more weapons to the Saudis that are worth over \$100 billion.

In the prevailing environment, the people of Yemen have every right to resist against foreign aggressors. They are also the ones that should be supported by the international community. Without question, the country has a functioning and elected government too. The Saudis and the Americans are free to claim otherwise. They can even escalate and call this proxy war with Iran. But they are wrong to assume they can win the war. They are no longer calling the shots and they cannot escape consequences.

France a Major Partner of Iran: FM Zarif

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif on Saturday described France as a major political and trade partner with which Iran seeks to boost joint investment.

"We regard France as an important economic and political partner," Zarif said in a meeting with French Minister of Finance Michel Sapin.

French politicians and companies' willingness to use opportunities for

to hold joint economic commissions, the foreign minister expressed Tehran's determination to enhance relations with Paris in all fields.

He also highlighted the Iranian market's potential and the workforce available in the country, hoping for broader joint investment in the automotive industry.

Sapin, for his part, expressed French politicians and companies' willingness to use opportunities for

Iran Seizes UAE Boats Off Kish Island



Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) troops ride in their boat alongside an Iranian naval vessel in this file photo.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has seized two dhows belonging to the United Arab Emirates off the coast of the southern Iranian island of Kish and arrested nine of its foreign crew, a judiciary official said on Saturday.

The ferries have been held for illegal fishing in the Islamic Republic's territorial waters, Kish chief prosecutor Muhammad Abbasi told Mizan Online News Agency.

He added that nearly one tonne of fish has also been confiscated. No more details have been provided so far.

The coastguard commander for the Kish Island, Colonel Rahim Jahanbakhsh, said on January 2 that

21 crew members of three fishing boats had been detained in the Persian Gulf for illegally entering the country's territorial waters.

He added that the dhows, belonging to the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf, had been seized after trespassing on the Islamic Republic's territorial waters and fishing rare and endangered species.

Under Iran's law, fishing for rare marine creatures carries hefty cash fines.

The incident came as the capital of the United Arab Emirates hosted a major military exercise before a public audience.

The maneuver, called Union Fortress, took place Thursday

afternoon along Abu Dhabi's seaside corniche.

It featured fighter jets, helicopters and a mock seaborne hostage rescue performed by Emirati troops. Such maneuvers before the public are rare in the United Arab Emirates, a major Western ally that hosts U.S. troops.

The UAE and Saudi troops are locked in a largely stalemate war which has destroyed Yemen's infrastructure and left more than 11,000 deaths.

Last month, the UAE performed a staged assault as part of a biennial arms' fair called the International Defense Exhibition and Conference,

U.S. Told to Address Own 'Dark' Rights Record

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran on Saturday rejected U.S. accusations of human rights violation, saying Washington with its dark record is not in a position to comment on other countries' conduct.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi categorically dismissed the U.S. State Department's 2016 human rights report released on March 3.

"Due to its awful and dark human rights record, either inside the country or at the international level, the U.S. government is in no position to comment on the status of human rights in other countries," he said.

No international organization or law has authorized the U.S. government to judge the status of human rights around the world one-sidedly and with political

motivations, Qassemi added.

The spokesman further highlighted a number of brazen cases of U.S. violation of human rights and of national sovereignty of other states, the most recent of which was Washington's decision to bar citizens of a number of Muslim countries from entering the U.S.

Qassemi denounced annual "meddlesome" reports by the U.S. as a "cover-up" in order to whitewash Washington's internal troubles and human rights violations.

The reports, he said, are an attempt to draw the world public attention away from Washington's blatant support for certain regional allies with a terrible human rights record whose war crimes against other nations have become clear to the world.

During a January 2016 visit to Paris by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Tehran signed a major contract with Airbus worth about \$27 billion to buy 118 planes.

Also in January 2016, Iran Khodro, the Middle East's biggest carmaker, and French carmaker PSA Peugeot Citroen signed an agreement over a joint-venture to produce cars, worth 500 million euros (\$545 million).

(Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an

If you do not go forth,
He will chastise you with
a painful chastisement
and bring in your place
a people other than you,
and you will do Him no
harm; and Allah has
power over all things.
The Holy Qur'an (9.39)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:15
Evening (Maghreb)	18:21
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:04
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:27

known by the acronym IDEX.

The choreographed military exercise on Thursday drew hundreds of cellphone-filming onlookers.

The pinpoint parachute drop and fast-rope assault on a ship from a helicopter, all overseen by a buzzing drone, intended to show the technical prowess of the UAE's military, said the Associated Press in a report which very much sounded like a promotional item.

While hosting some 5,000 American troops, the UAE seeks to send a message to Iran that it remains capable of defending itself and launching assaults with its forces, the report said. That comes as Iran conducts military drills of its own and questions remain what approach U.S. President Donald Trump will take with Tehran, the AP added.

Press Digest

Looking for Scapegoats

KAYHAN: So far the government has had two scapegoats: The former government and the U.S.-led economic sanctions. After four years and despite the nuclear deal with the West, the government no longer has the luxury to use these two scapegoats for its shortcomings. Things are so bad that even Western governments have decided to do something to save the administration of Rouhani. In the coming weeks we will find out many other scapegoats they will use for their empty promises and plans.

Illegal Semi-Banks

AFTAB: Some banks have become traders and some traders have become banks. The Central Bank has to regulate and oversee the activities of illegal financial institutions plus the negative competition in the interest rate domain. It should also do something about the semi-banks. They have created a lot of problems for the economy and their own shareholders. These duped shareholders never bother to listen to the advice of policymakers. Instead, they deposit large sums of money into these illegal quarters without insurance cover.

Conflict of Interest

DONYAYE EQTESAD: To fight corruption, there should be a new law that forbids officials from getting involved in personal economic activities. As per Article 141 in the constitution, those who hold key government positions are barred from getting involved in trade and private economic activities. Failure to do so only creates conflict of interest which is not the case in many other parts of the world. Amendments should be made to the existing law to ensure officials can never do trade and business for personal gains.

Wage Gap

VATAN EMROOZ: This is not justice when some officials get paid 30 times a regular worker's wage. The parliament should never allow this to happen. Previously, top managers were only allowed to get paid 12 times the regular salary. The problem is that minimum wage only applies to workers, not state managers. The country needs workers, but there has to be justice too, which is yet to be the case. Instead, there is injustice and discrimination.