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Larijani: Zionist Regime Behind Syria Conflict

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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint



Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's parliament speaker said on Sunday the Israeli prime minister "clearly" showed in his recent remarks opposing Iranian counterterrorism contribution to Syria that Tel Aviv is behind the ongoing war in the Arab country.

Ali Larijani made the remarks about a Friday conversation between Zionist premier Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Netanyahu reportedly expressed "Israel's strong opposition to the presence of Iranian forces" north of Occupied Palestine "in the context of the talks on a settlement of any kind."

Iran has been lending advisory support to the Syrian military in its battle against foreign-backed militancy, while avoiding any direct military involvement in the conflict.

"Netanyahu laid the conditions for

peace in Syria," Larijani told the parliament session in Tehran. "He clearly stated that the Zionist regime is behind the war in Syria."

"If some regional leaders were so far in a doubt that the war in Syria is not in line with the interests of Muslims, the least of which Sunni Muslims, they should have been disillusioned with these remarks by the head of the Zionist regime," he added.

"The main reason behind the adventures in the region is to defeat resistance and its supporters to pave the way for the Zionist regime's complete dominance here," Larijani further said.

Netanyahu was also cited as telling Putin "the fact that the Golan Heights is not part of the discussion on any outline" of the peace agreement.

The occupying regime of Israel has been occupying Golan since 1967. Since the start of the foreign-backed

militancy in Syria, it has been providing medical treatment to injured Takfiri terrorists arriving at the territory, claiming it would do so for all those in the areas "under its control."

Tel Aviv wants Syrian President Bashar al-Assad ousted. It has been carrying out air raids against Syria-based targets from the Lebanese airspace on many occasions.

Late last month, Israel's Channel 2 said the regime had sent its troops on repeated spying missions into a village located half a kilometer inside Syria's territory. The Zionist military has also deployed intelligence-gathering equipment in the Golan Heights to record movements by the Syrian military and foreign-backed militants.

Meeting with Putin, Netanyahu also claimed ancient Persia had made a failed attempt to "destroy the Jewish people" some 2,500 years ago, a legend

The Holy Qur'an. Certainly Allah has turned (mercifully) to the Prophet and those who fled and the helpers who followed him in the hour of straitness after the hearts of a part of them were about to deviate, then He turned to them; surely to them He is Compassionate, Merciful. The Holy Qur'an (9.117)

PRAYER TIMINGS. Noon (Zohr) 12:14. Evening (Maghreb) 18:28. Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow" 04:55. Sunrise "Tomorrow" 06:18.

U.S. Centcom Chief's Anti-Iran Remarks 'Spiteful'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Iranian Foreign Ministry has dismissed the "spiteful" anti-Iran remarks by the head of the U.S. Central Command, saying Washington's "injudicious and incorrect" policies are the root cause of tensions in the Middle East.

"The injudicious and incorrect U.S. policies have been the main reason behind the volatile, tense and unstable situation in the Middle East region over the past decades and recent years," ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said.

He added that the "wrong and meddling policies of U.S. statesmen" have generated the current tensions in the region.

"These mistakes are themselves a product of U.S. officials' excessive demands and lack of correct understanding and perception of the strategic and sensitive region of the Middle East and a result of relentless support for the re-

gime occupying Jerusalem al-Quds," Qassemi added.

He said allegations leveled by the U.S. official against the Islamic Republic are merely an attempt to divert attention away from Washington's role in the creation of terrorist groups.

Addressing the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, General Joseph Votel, the head of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), alleged that Iran "aspires to be a regional hegemon and its forces and proxies oppose U.S. interests in Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Gaza and Syria, and seek to hinder achievement of U.S. objectives in Afghanistan and some Central Asian States."

He claimed that Iran's "influence is the most significant threat to Middle East Security."

Qassemi said the unwise and malevolent conducts of the U.S. are the root cause of the establishment of Takfiri terrorism and extremism and the emergence of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Daesh are just a small part of the results of these policies.

In an interview in August 2016, U.S. President Donald Trump reaffirmed his assertion that his predecessor Barack Obama had founded Daesh.

Qassemi said the U.S. is the biggest exporter and supplier of advanced weapons and military equipment to "certain governments in the region" and as such plays a significant and prominent role in the escalation of tensions, crises, warmongering, insecurity and political turmoil in some Western Asian countries.

Russia, Iran Navies Pledge to Expand Ties

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Iran seeks to bolster "good and constructive" marine cooperation with Russia, an Iranian naval commander says.

Captain Mohsen Sheidayee, the commander of a flotilla of Iranian warships, currently on a friendly visit to Makhachkala, made the comments in a meeting with the commander of the Russian Caspian Flotilla.

"The purpose of this trip is to strengthen good and construc-

Why Does Israel Seek New Lebanon War?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

At a time when it's pretty clear that the resistance group of Hezbollah doesn't want another war with Israel, and the fact that Hezbollah is more focused on fighting against ISIL and Al-Qaeda in Syria than being involved in border skirmishes with Tel Aviv, the Zionist regime says another war with Lebanon is an inevitability.

Even though Israel was roundly criticized for the civilian toll of its 2006 invasion, many Zionist leaders are eager to make clear that the next war, which they consider an inevitability, will involve even more deliberate targeting of Lebanese civilians.

That includes education minister Naftali Bennett, who like many others, has been talking up the idea of deliberately targeting populated areas in the next war for years, and this is just the latest pretext to reiterate it. The real reason this narrative has been pushed is likely the reality that Israel's military has a decidedly difficult time not killing civilians wholesale during wars, and simply wants to get a head start on justifying the criminal targeting of civilian homes. However, there's more to this criminality:

It is the deafening silence and complicity of the United Nations in Israeli war crimes as well as America's diplomatic support at the Security Council that always allows the usurper regime to provoke Lebanon and other Arab states by military operations and covert terrorist actions. It's the same complicity that also provokes Palestinians by continued desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as raids, arrests and attacks against their property, including airstrikes against civilian objects in Gaza.

Some Western governments might try to blame Hezbollah and the Lebanese victims and link the tensions to suspicious border attacks. This is fine. But they fail to notice the oddly increasing frequency of Israeli threats and raids. They should at least ask why Israel carries out acts of provocation even when there have been no Hezbollah attacks?

The personal diary of Moshe Sharet, Israel's first foreign minister and prime minister from 1953 to 1955, sheds light on this important question. The journal documents the rationale and mechanics of Israel's "Arab Policy" in the late 1940s and the 1950s:

The policy portrayed is one of deliberate Israeli acts of provocation, intended to generate Arab hostility and thus to create pretexts for war, armed action and territorial expansion. Sharet's records document this policy of "Sacred Terrorism" and expose the myths of Israel's "security needs" and the "Arab threat" that have been treated like self-evident truths since its inception.

It's a sign that the exceptional demographic and geographic alterations in the Israeli society have been brought about, not as the accidental results of the endeavor to guard Israel's security, but by a drive for longer occupation, terror and vicious existence.

The irony is that whenever the UN Security Council or the Human Rights Council decides to act and issue resolutions critical of Israel, international Zionism comes to the rescue. This is obvious at the material level, as measured by flow of American funds and armaments, joint military operations, and diplomatic support. This special relationship appears at the ideological level as well. Western governments never arrest or prosecute Zionist leaders for committing war crimes in occupied territories, let alone for deliberately targeting civilians in the last Lebanon war.

Long story short, only an investigation mandated by the UN Security Council can ensure Israel's cooperation, and it's the only body that can secure some kind of prosecution and justice for the 2006 invasion of Lebanon - and hence prevent another deadly war on Lebanon.

Without a proper investigation there is no deterrent and the message - as referred by education minister Bennett - to the Zionist regime's war machine remains the same: "In the next war, which is an inevitability, you can kill more Lebanese civilians. There won't be any real consequences at the UN."

Press Digest

Only Word, No Action

KAYHAN: It was supposed to be the year of economic resistance. But pundits after pundits argue that the administration of Rouhani did nothing about it. People are yet to feel the positive results of government's "economic achievements". They suffer from widespread economic and financial maladies and the government is yet to even listen to its critics. The president should sincerely apologize to people, for failing to fix the economy, including high rates of unemployment and consumer prices.

Still in the Game

RESALAT: People voted for Rouhani because they wanted to have a moderate government. When a candidate loses the election it does in no way mean he is out of the picture. The reformists have no intention to stay in the shadows. They will once again take part in the upcoming presidential race. They might even reconsider their support for Rouhani. It is wrong to assume that just about a handful of ministries run the country. Both the moderates and the reformists will stay in the game.

High Rent Prices

AFTAB: Rent prices have gone up steadily although housing market is calm now. This year there will be some boost in the housing market. Demand for rent is still high, meaning stability in the market will stay. Even if rent prices go up they will be in line with house prices. If house prices stay the same, rent prices will follow suit. In general though, rent prices will not go up as low-income households are unable to catch up with runaway prices.

No Banking Ties

VATAN ERMOOZ: Banking ties between Iran and Europe are yet to normalize, particularly after the presidency of Donald Trump. Major banks refuse to open up credit lines for the country and its businesses. No major company in the West is able to invest in Iran. The government is yet to find a proper way to get the economy out of current recession. Its latest policies and packages talk about economic resistance but that's just in words. We are yet to see any action.

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