

Kayhan International

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Anniversary of a Failed War

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

It was in March 2015 that Saudi Arabia and its American-NATO partners in crime started bombing Yemen in a bid to "democratize" it! As a consequence, the besieged people of Yemen are still fighting against the ugly lunacy of the House of Saud and its allies. The failed war – yes it failed to regime change Yemen - has killed and wounded tens of thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children. This includes those killed in the airstrikes targeting schools, markets, weddings, funerals, as well as hospitals and health care centers – even a center for blind kids!

It's the anniversary of this criminal, illegal and dirty campaign. Criminal because it has normalized the rationale that you can drop terror bombs, murder civilians, and get away with it. Dirty because one realizes that this is what the people of Iraq and Syria are also experiencing right now. Illegal because more bomb tonnage has been dropped on them than in Yemen, but no worriers. The poorest country in the Arab world is slowly catching up - with not one word in Western mainstream media on what it must have been like to live under such terrible conditions. For them, Yemen is a forgotten war and a trying ground for their weapons. They just want to sell arms and get away with murder and complicity.

On this anniversary, equally unnerving is the lack of official protests as well as the deafening silence at the United Nations Security Council, where in fact some of the self-appointed bully-boy members are at the forefront of the air war against Yemen, i.e., the United States and Britain. Over 10,000 people killed thus far, millions more made refugees, and nary an anti-Saudi resolution, let alone a word from the new UN chief. Quite the contrary, they have given the Saudis the top seat at the Human Rights Council. What a shame!

In any case, the bombing of Yemen at will to invoke Wahhabi values is not a one-time thing but rather the start of a long course of military presence in Greater Middle East for the U.S. empire of chaos and its regional Saudi vassals. Yes, the U.S. military began building a new naval base off the coast of Yemen the moment it gave the go-ahead to its Saudi vassals to start bombing.

All this to punish a supposed Tehran-backed resistance front, protect a deposed puppet regime, force Yemen to cooperate with the Zionist regime of Israel, upset regional security, invent new wars, sell them as a cakewalk, hide the extent of assassinations by drone, and hide the ugliness of it all – with a helping hand from Al-Qaeda brutes and ISIL proxies.

Today, we have the anniversary marking the start of the Saudi-led, U.S.-backed war on Yemen - in the name of the highest ideals with the most brutal tactics and crimes against humanity. The dirty campaign has turned victims into aggressors and aggressors into victims. Per usual, the vast majority of mainstream media outlets and observers, which focus on debates over class and race, or the unraveling of domestic coalition and Trump Tweets, pay little or no attention to this deliberate, never-ending humanitarian catastrophe.

When will the conscience of the international civil society wake up to this nightmare, to this man-made disaste? When will we realize that just like other kids in other parts of the world, the kids in Yemen also have the universal right not to die in the way to school? They don't have to die while playing in the streets or at school. They don't have to have nightmares, not knowing if in the morning they will ever wake up again or be crushed under the rubbles of the next American-made Saudi bombs.

There has to be some difference between peoples and animals. But even animals sometimes show some compassion to their kinds. In the U.S.-backed, Saudi-led failed war on Yemen, tragically, even animal instincts have been discounted. What a disgrace!

Iran Urges Int'l Campaign to End Terrorism

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian diplomat says the international community must first put an end to "terrorism," interventionism, and "ethnic cleansing," among other threats around the world, in order to pave the way for the elimination of human trafficking.

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholam Ali Khoshroo made the comments during an address to a Security Council open debate on Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Forced Labor in Conflict Situations.

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Tehran Friday Prayers Leader: Nuclear Deal Showed U.S. Not Trustworthy



Ayatollah Muhammad Ali Movahhedi-Kermani leads Tehran Friday prayers at Imam Khomeini Prayers Grounds, March 17, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Tehran's interim Friday prayer leader says U.S. sanctions imposed against Iran following the conclusion of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and the world powers prove Washington is not trustworthy.

"This experience is enough and let's not repeat the same experience, because the U.S. proved that it is our enemy and our diplomats

say America does not fulfill its obligations," Ayatollah Muhammad Ali Movahhedi-Kermani said.

"The sanctions were supposed to be lifted in six months. Not only have they not been removed, other sanctions were also added under the pretext of security issues," he said.

Movahhedi-Kermani added, "Washington says let us hold talks on the regional issues. It is strange!

How can one hold dialogue with a party that does not hold on to its promises?"

Iran and the P5+1 signed the landmark JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016. However, the U.S. has issued new unilateral sanctions against Iran over the country's defensive missile program.

The Islamic Republic has slammed the new U.S. sanctions as illegal and pledged to deliver a "proportionate and reciprocal" response to the move.

Iran, along with five other Muslim-majority nations, has recently become the target of a

FM Zarif: Zionist Regime Poses 'Biggest Nuclear Threat'

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif says the occupying regime of Israel poses "the biggest nuclear threat" to the Middle East region and the entire world.

Zarif described the Zionist regime's policies towards regional nations as vicious, stressing that Israeli authorities seek to conceal truth and advance their aggressive plots through the language of threats.

"We have never expected Israel to adopt a peaceful and non-violent approach. We have got used to Israel's policies over the past years," he told Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen news network on Thursday evening.

The top Iranian diplomat also reiterated Tehran's preparedness to offer support and assistance to bring about national unity among Palestinians, terming the issue as an urgent "priority" for the Islamic Republic.

Zarif then pointed to the resistance against the Israeli regime's aggressive acts, saying Tel Aviv's aggression against the besieged Gaza Strip and Lebanon taught the regime that Palestinian and Lebanese nations are not soft targets.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarif pointed to joint Saudi and Israeli attempts to pressure Iran, saying Riyadh and Tel Aviv have joined efforts since the beginning of nuclear talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to sabotage the negotiations.

"They have explored all available avenues and exerted excessive pressure. We predict that they are still pushing ahead with such efforts," he said.

"I advise Saudi Arabia to cooperate with us instead of collaborating with others in a bid to harm Iran. Countries that commit erroneous acts must offer apologies to Iran. This is not our mistake that some countries have decided to invade Yemen for no clear reason, and support Daesh and Nusra Front militant groups in Syria and Iraq," Zarif stated.

He said Tehran and Riyadh could have good relations.

"Iran is prepared to cooperate with all Muslim states within the framework of non-interference in the domestic affairs of each other. Cooperation with neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia, must be aimed at the establishment of peace in Bahrain, Yemen and Syria," the Iranian foreign minister stated.

Zarif also dismissed U.S. authorities' hostile rhetoric against Iran as "ineffective," saying former U.S. administrations imposed numerous economic sanctions against Iran, which produced adverse political outcomes and left them with no option but to negotiate with the Islamic Republic.

Iran, he said, has devised a vast array of scenarios concerning its nuclear agreement with the world's major powers, but the best option is that Americans stand committed to the accord.

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The Holy Qur'an

Go forth light and heavy, and strive hard in Allah's way with your property and your persons; this is better for you, if you know.

The Holy Qur'an (9.41)

PRAYER TIMINGS	
Noon (Zohr)	12:12
Evening (Maghreb)	18:32
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:45
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:09

travel ban by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.
Saudi Allegations

Elsewhere in his remarks, Movahhedi-Kermani denounced the recent anti-Iran allegations by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister rejected Iranian calls for dialogue, saying Tehran was the main sponsor of terrorism in the world, a destabilizing force in the Middle East and wanted to "destroy us."

"This person calls Iran the main sponsor of terrorism while his country has caused bloodbath in Yemen and is killing children on a daily basis," Ayatollah Movahhedi-Kermani said.

The cleric slammed Jubeir's allegation that Iran sought to destroy Saudi Arabia and said, "You are the one who is destroying your country through oppression."

Saudi Arabia has been leading a deadly military campaign against Yemen since March 2015. Latest tallies say some 12,000 civilians have been killed in attacks.

Press Digest

Farfetched Numbers

KAYHAN: The biggest problem for the administration of President Rouhani is not its unbelievable reports and statistics as regards the economy. The way it has handled the situation has also undermined the credibility of the National Statistics Center. The government insists the center come up with farfetched numbers again and again. This has only dealt a major blow to the organizational structure of the center. The question is how experts can now assess the economic performance of the country.

Election Promise

AFTAB: One of the presidential candidates has promised to increase government's cash handouts if he wins the election. He says his government will pay out 113,000 tomans in the first round, then increase it to 200,000 and 300,000. This is while the figure has always been 45,500 tomans from the day it was introduced. The current government says this has to be just about 12,000 tomans!

Important Events

RESALAT: The most important events this year have to be the presidential and city council elections. It's also a vote that will determine the fate of President Rouhani and whether the public still trusts his mandate. The color revolutions have undermined the democratic structures of many countries. What happened after the U.S. election has also undermined the integrity of liberal democracy. The democratic future is bleak for the U.S. and Europe. They have all been overshadowed by populism.

Against All Odds

VATAN EMROOZ: Unlike what experts, politicians and religious leaders say and against all odds, President Rouhani claims the country's economic situation is acceptable. He is so delighted to be at the service of Iranian people. He claims his government has fixed so many things and the hope is the current situation will continue next year. He also claims he did all this with the help of people.