

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High

## Viewpoint

### Global Arms Trade and Catastrophic Consequences

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

A new study suggests global arms trade has risen to its highest level since the Cold War in the last five years, driven by a demand from the Middle East and Asia.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), between 2012-2016, arms imports in terms of volume by countries in Asia and Oceania accounted for 43 percent of global imports, a 7.7 rise compared to the previous 2007-2011 period.

Here, the share of countries in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf monarchies has jumped from 17 percent to 29 percent, far ahead of Europe (11 percent, down seven points), the Americas (8.6 percent, down 2.4 percentage points) and Africa (8.1 percent, down 1.3 points). This is not surprising:

The United States and its regional allies are still beating the drums of war. A few years ago it was Iran, with "all options on the table." Then it was a red line that threatened to drag the world into the conflict in Syria. This time it is Yemen (capitulation) - under the pretext of destroying ISIL.

But destroying Washington's monstrous creation cannot and will not create an effective and legitimate Iraqi or Syrian state, nor will it bring about peace and harmony to Yemen. All the military power in the world won't solve these problems - as long as the United States refuses to stop arming those who created this whole mess in the first place.

In an interdependent, interconnected world, there is no place for America's perpetual wars or arms sale policies of killing and threats to kill, and/or policies of exceptionalism, superiority and self-interest. The world has changed and has had enough of American wars. Nations do not want conflicts.

Consecutive U.S. administrations have always done empty lip service to ideals like freedom and democracy; they have always repeated tired tropes about "democratizing," "assisting" and "liberating" peoples. Their rhetoric about the wars on Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan is not that different.

A reminder that there is no future in the ongoing U.S.-led arms sales and wars in the Middle East. American arms have never brought about freedom and peace. They have always been about profit for the military-industrial complex and the American empire - at the expense of others.

American arms sales are the "one constant" in this part of the world. America started the arms race. America perpetuated the arms race. And America is entirely responsible for the current insecurity and bloodbath.

Now President Trump is re-launching a new round of the war on terror through additional escalation in Iraq and Syria, and he wants the allies to pay for it. It's the biggest threat to regional peace and stability.

The arming and outfitting of militants and the training of terrorist groups in the region also 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 beyond.

Despite their massive arms sales, these not-so-secret deals are unknown to most people. The vast majority of these deals remains completely in the shadows and is never subjected to meaningful examination - which only increases the chances of blowbacks and catastrophic consequences.

This is while the military industrial complex is still being consistently propped up by the concept of American exceptionalism, proxy wars, massive surveillance, and untold numbers of assassinations. It is safe to conclude that these bullets and bombs make the United States the biggest war criminal and the biggest threat to global peace and security.

# 'Israel Unable to Form Anti-Iran Coalition'



Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan has stressed that the Zionist regime's efforts to set up a coalition against the Islamic Republic will result in failure.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan has stressed that the Zionist regime's efforts to set up a coalition against the Islamic Republic will result in failure.

"Desperate bids by the Zionist regime to form a coalition against Iran will have no result and will not make Iran give up its support for the Palestinian cause and the liberation of Jerusalem al-Quds," Dehqan said on Tuesday.

The Iranian defense minister made the remarks in reaction to recent claims by both the Zionist minister for military affairs, Avigdor Lieberman, and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence against Tehran.

In their separate addresses to the 53rd Munich Security Conference in Germany, Lieberman and Pence claimed that Iran was a supporter of "terrorism" and constituted the "main threat" to the region. They

also attacked the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, calling for an international push against the Islamic Republic.

The new vice president echoed his boss's hostile rhetoric, claiming that the nuclear deal between Iran and the six world powers, including the U.S., had given Iran "additional resources" to "destabilize" the region.

Dehqan, however, rejected the allegations and said, "The entire world has acknowledged that terrorism and the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group are currently the biggest threats to regional and international security."

He said U.S. President Donald Trump has also confirmed that the former administration of President Barack Obama had founded the Daesh terrorist group in the Middle East.

Now the world must judge

## IRGC Ground Forces Conduct Urban Warfare Drill

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Ground Forces are practicing defending residential areas during simulated urban warfare.

On the sidelines of general drills, codenamed Payambar-e-A'azam 11 (the Great Prophet 11), which are underway in Dasht-e Kavir, the country's sprawling central desert, the IRGC's Ground Forces were deployed to the city of Taybad in Iran's Khorasan Razavi Province on Tuesday to practice defending residential neighborhoods against potential threats, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The more general Payambar-e-A'azam 11 drills started on Monday, with the motto of "the demonstration of power and enduring stability."

The maneuvers feature the IRGC's drone, artillery, air defense, and infantry units.

The first stage witnessed the launch of state-of-the-art smart and precision-guided rockets against mock enemy targets.

Also on Monday, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, the commander of the IRGC's Ground Forces, visited the sites assigned to the various stages of the maneuvers.

In January, IRGC Ground Forces drilled in western Iran to similarly improve the division's combat preparedness, while challenging its prowess in devising new tactics and methods of warfare.

Iran says its military might is defensive in nature and poses no threat to any other country.

whether Iran, which has fully engaged in a war against terrorism and is itself a victim of this vicious phenomenon, can be regarded as a threat, Dehqan said.

"Nations in the world and the region, particularly the Palestinian people, will never forget the brutal and inhumane crimes of the Zionist regime over the past 60 years and regard this regime as the main reason behind war, insecurity, terror and crimes in the region," Dehqan said.

He urged the new U.S. administration to focus on the chaotic situation in the U.S. and instead of leveling accusations against others and playing a blame

The Holy Qur'an  
He it is Who sent His Apostle with guidance and the religion of truth, that He might cause it to prevail over all religions, though the polytheists may be averse.  
The Holy Qur'an (9.33)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	18:10
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:18
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:41

game, stop implementing policies, which led to the creation of Daesh as well as insecurity and war in the region and across the world.

The Zionist regime is widely viewed as a staunch supporter of the militant groups operating in Syria to topple its government.

Iran, meanwhile, has been providing military advisory support to both Iraq and Syria in their campaign against terrorism at the request of the two countries' governments.

The Islamic Republic was among the first countries to help Iraq when the Daesh terrorist group unleashed a campaign of death and destruction in the northern and western parts of the Arab country in 2014.

Iran has also played a significant role in the Syrian military's gains against the terrorists.

## Press Digest

### Question Time

KAYHAN: Reformist newspapers are angry because some of their ranks have proposed to put behind bars anyone who dares to criticize the government or question its policies. It reveals the true face of the reformist camp which is dictatorship. They are at lost with words. On the other hand, the reformers criticize these newspapers for making public their proposal, which is weird too. They used to claim people have the right to question authorities. Whatever happened then?

### Academic Idleness

RESALAT: The ongoing natural disaster in Khuzestan province has put on display the utter incompetence of the environmental authorities. It is also annoying to see universities and academic centers sit on their hands and do nothing about it, including coming up with proposals and solutions. It is hard to see they are not showing any responsibility at these difficult times. Strange enough, the government has refused to seek consultation from these academic centers - only if to say it is doing something about it. It all comes down to this: Our universities and academic centers are not up to the mark.

### Trump Games

AFTAB: Media outlets warn that the Trump administration is busy trying to undermine the present alliance between Iran and Russia. The truth is it's a hopeless gambit. Rumors suggest Iran and Russia have some differences in particular areas. But at the end of the day, this alliance is strategic. The Russians might try to normalize ties with Washington and even ignore Iran's demands. But it's impossible to let go of their strategic alliance with Tehran.

### Fake News

VATAN EMROOZ: The ongoing campaign in the West to link terrorism to Islam is fake news. Thousands of cars are stolen in the UK but no one there says people are feeling insecure. In France, protesters torch down thousands of cars, and again no one in the media says there is insecurity. But the moment someone torches a dustbin in Iran, all media outlets in the West gang up together to exaggerate the situation as if the whole country is on fire and hence insecure.

## Iran Reliable Trading Partner for Europe: Zarif

MUNICH (Dispatches) - Iran says it will always be a reliable trading partner for all European countries, specifically Germany.

Mohammad-Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister, told a forum on Iran's investment opportunities in Munich that investments made by Germany

companies in Iran over the past decades had already left a good impression on Iranians.

Zarif told the representatives of major Germany companies and trade unions that had participated in the forum that Europe in general and Germany in particular had always benefited from

doing business with Iran, Iran's IRNA news agency reported.

He added that Iran had always tried to live up to its commitments as per its trade deals with the Europeans, even during the years that it was under US-led sanctions.

Zarif further emphasized that the risks

for investments in Iran were currently at the lowest levels compared to other countries of the region.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian foreign minister said that economic cooperation between Iran and Europe would be mutually beneficial.

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