

Iran's Naval Drills and Law of Sea Treaty

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei is right to say the Persian Gulf coast and much of the coasts of the Sea of Oman belong to the Iranian nation, and that Iran has to be present in this region, stage naval maneuvers, and show off its power.

In his words, "The Persian Gulf is the Iranian nation's home and the Persian Gulf and a large section of the Sea of Oman belong to this powerful nation; therefore, we should be present in the region, hold drills and display our power. It is the Americans who should explain why they have come from that side of the world and stage drills in here. What are you doing here? Go back to the Bay of Pigs. Go and hold exercises there. What are you doing in the Persian Gulf? The Persian Gulf is our home."

Regardless, the Law of the Sea Treaty says activities pursuant to self-defense are consistent with the United Nations' 1982 Convention.

It is within the framework of this particular Convention that Iran as a signatory continues to stage naval drills throughout the Persian Gulf region. After all, the Convention requires parties to the Treaty to adopt regulations and laws to control pollution of the marine environment and security. It also says ships flying the flag of any sovereign state shall not suffer interference from other states.

The problem is that the United States hasn't ratified the Convention. For the same reason, it continues to challenge, and even threaten with sanctions, Iran's territorial rights in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, including its annual naval maneuvers in the Strait of Hormuz. This is of course unlawful.

This is while on several occasions, the armed forces of the United States have conducted operations in the Persian Gulf in collaboration with Arab littoral states specifically to challenge Iran's national security. Throughout the years, US forces have also been performing "Freedom of Navigation" operations in the Strait of Hormuz with little respect to Iran's territorial integrity.

Little wonder Ayatollah Khamenei says the US Navy's aggressive presence in the Persian Gulf is counterproductive, indeed an infringement of Iran's rights. It is what it is: Counterproductive.

Quite the opposite, under the United Nations' 1982 Convention, Iran is allowed to exercise sovereignty over its territorial waters, stage naval drills for self-defense and security, and regulate navigational and other aspects of passage through the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Sea of Oman.

Moreover, Iran has every right to powerfully continue its military drills in the region irrespective of Washington opposition and threats, including threat of sanctions.

'Certain Syria Players Back Terrorists'

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian official says certain parties intervening in the Syrian crisis lent support to terrorist groups in line with an agenda of confronting Damascus in an armed conflict.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian made the remark during a meeting with Secretary General of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Christian Masset in Tehran.

"From the onset, some players were pursuing the military approach, and in line with that, they supported terrorists to achieve their goals," he said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, however, was laying emphasis on a political solution from the beginning and simultaneously backed the political reform process in Syria as well as the dispatch of humanitarian aid to the country."

Since March 2011, the United States and its regional allies, in particular Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, have been staging a proxy war against Syria.

According to a February report by the Syrian Center for Policy Research, the conflict has claimed the lives of over 470,000 people, injured 1.9 million others, and displaced nearly half of the pre-war population of about 23 million within or beyond Syria's borders.

Amir-Abdollahian further stressed that the international community should adopt a sound definition of what constitutes a terror group in Syria.

"Despite the agreements reached in Geneva concerning the ceasefire in Syria, some armed groups unfortunately adopted an aggressive approach, violating the truce in a coordinated, attempt with Daesh and al-Qaeda," he said.

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Larijani: Regional States Must Be Vigilant



Iran's parliament speaker Ali Larijani (R) and Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Ramadan Abdullah Shalah meet in Tehran on May 3, 2016.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's parliament speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday the Middle East region is bogged down in a political imbroglio, warning that some countries are pursuing double-standard policies on Palestine to gain prestige.

The Iranian Majlis speaker made the remarks in a meeting with Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Ramadan Abdullah Shalah, here.

Larijani said most regional countries plunged into war and are

bracing for developments which require their political vigilance.

He added that the Palestinian people's Intifada (uprising) against Israel is an important chance for Palestine to resist the Tel Aviv regime.

The Palestinian people's struggles would come to fruition soon, Larijani said.

Abdullah, for his part, said Iran has always supported the Palestinian people.

He added that the Palestinian

people are firmly determined to pass the flag of their country from one generation to the next one.

He said Intifada is the only solution to the liberation of Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people are sensitive to certain issues, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque, he said, adding that all Muslims would reinforce their unity in case of any incident in the mosque.

The occupied Palestinian territories have been the scene of heightened

The Holy Qur'an

Certainly an Apostle has come to you from among yourselves; grievous to him is your falling into distress, excessively solicitous respecting you; to the believers (he is) compassionate.
The Holy Qur'an (9.128)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:01
Evening (Maghreb)	20:13
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:33
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:08

tensions since August 2015, when Israel imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds, revered by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

The Palestinians say the Tel Aviv regime seeks to change the status quo of the holy Muslim site.

Palestinians are also angry over Israeli settler attacks in the occupied territories and repeated desecration of the Al-Aqsa compound by extremist settlers, who are usually accompanied by Israeli military forces.

At least 210 Palestinians, including children and women have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces in what is regarded as the third Palestinian Intifada since the beginning of last October.

FM Zarif: No Limit to Expansion of Iran-Malaysia Ties

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday Iran and Malaysia have always maintained good and growing relations, stressing that Tehran sets no limitation to expansion of ties with Kuala Lumpur.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to boost its all-out cooperation with Malaysia in all fields," Zarif said in a meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman here.

He added that high-level delegations of many countries made visits to Iran after the implementation of last year's nuclear agreement, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries and created new op-

portunities for strengthening broad trade and economic cooperation.

He called on Iran-Malaysia joint economic committee to draw up new strategies to improve bilateral trade cooperation given the two countries' great capacities.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia – plus Germany started implementing the JCPOA on January 16. The two sides signed the agreement on July 14, 2015 following two and a half years of intensive talks.

Under the JCPOA, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the Security Council, and the U.S. would be lifted. Iran has, in return, put some limitations on its nuclear activities.

Zarif further said grounds have been prepared for Iran's financial and banking cooperation with many European and Asian countries, adding Tehran and Kuala Lumpur can also enjoy the chance to expand relations in the banking sector.

Aman, for his part, said Iran and Malaysia have a positive prospect of improving cooperation.

The Malaysian foreign minister added that the two countries can boost cooperation in various political and economic sectors within the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

He urged Tehran and Kuala Lumpur to take new steps in the energy sector after the lifting of sanctions against Iran under the JCPOA.

Press Digest

Aleppo

QODS: The game-changing triumph in northern Syria has moved the counter-terror alliance of Iran, Syria, Russia and Hezbollah to within striking distance of a decisive victory in Aleppo and Raqqa. After breaking a siege on the cities of Nubl and Zahra, the Syrian Army has encircled the country's industrial hub and is gradually tightening the noose. It's only a matter of time before these disparate murderers and rapists are either killed or forced to surrender.

Regime

AFTAB: The Israel the west is so keen to defend is a regime that has committed and continues to commit crimes against humanity in Syria, Lebanon and occupied Palestinian territories, including in Gaza - with great impunity and no accountability. If still the West insists, they can find out more by going through official reports published by the Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, United Nations, and several other international aid groups and agencies.

Unilateralism

DONYAYE EQTESAD: The unilateral sanctions imposed by the US are important as a sign of more antagonistic things to come. They reveal that the Iran nuclear deal was indeed a covenant with the Great Satan and an agreement with hell, admittedly about arms control and not rapprochement between Tehran and Washington.

All-Out

VATAN EMROOZ: What's been going on in Syria for the past five years or so is an all-out war on a sovereign nation by a criminal gang of regime changers, with no UN mandate and certainly no justification of any sort. The bloodshed continues and the suffering deepens, because the regime changers have no intention to end their war of aggression and outrage through diplomatic negotiations.