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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## Bad Idea: U.S. Forces in Syria

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*The Pentagon claims the U.S. Special Forces on the ground in Syria are in a purely non-combat role, despite a new spate of photographs showing the troops embedded with Kurdish YPG forces in combat operations.*

*The photos show the U.S. Green Berets wearing the insignia of the Kurdish YPG on their uniform, likely to be a topic of contention with Turkey, who considers the YPG to be a terrorist organization. Pentagon officials say it is "fairly common" for U.S. troops to wear other factions' insignia.*

*Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook says U.S. Special Forces are aiming to "blend in with the community to enhance their own protection" by wearing the Kurdish insignia, while Col. Steve Warren says it is a "sign of partnership" with the Kurds.*

*The exact number of U.S. ground troops in Syria is not a matter of public record, though Cook does concede that the number has "escalated" from the initial deployment of 50 troops. President Obama signed off on another 250 troops earlier this month, and Pentagon officials are angling for more almost immediately thereafter.*

*Regardless, The War Party's decision to send more U.S. troops to Syria is a formula for disaster. It will be a catalog of blunders and more intelligence failings on a massive scale.*

*Not surprisingly, the Syrian people and government officials – as well as the American public – denounce this terrible idea, which is openly supporting a sectarian war against the elected government in Damascus.*

*The whole idea of the new surge is designed to derail the ongoing peace talks between the Syrian government and the opposition. It is in fact designed to resuscitate the pre-planned agenda: Partition of Syria on ethnic-sectarian lines. This is while Syria has an all-inclusive unity government. Many towns and regions have also been liberated, meaning Syria has what it takes to ensure its own security and territorial integrity.*

*While the press has focused primary attention on the terrorist group of ISIL in the new surge, the future of Syria depends on its people. They are the ones that will decide who will be their next president. Also, they will never accept a partitioned state nor the lines the U.S., Israel and their partners in crime have drawn as their desired outcome of the war.*

*Just like the people of Syria, the world community, particularly the European Union which has been drowned in the wave of Syrian refugee crisis – will never buy the deadly partition of Syria either. The pre-planned agenda to redraw the Middle East map may be what Washington wants, but the world will oppose it, as it will create more chaos and more refugees.*

*The lesson is obvious: The world has had enough of America's surge and mission creep policies. The way forward in Syria would require uniting the different populations there, under one central government, to flush out the foreign-backed terrorist goons and proxies.*

*The world community should at the same time continue to help the Syrians build the capacity of a national security force against ISIL – "admittedly" a product of the U.S. government and Israel, regimented and trained to implement the monstrous plan of splitting Syria and Iraq on ethnic-sectarian lines under the "Biden Plan".*

## Germans Awarded Petrochemical Project

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran on Thursday awarded a major contract to a German company over the development of a petrochemical project in the country's southwestern city of Masjed Soleyman.

The contract has been awarded to Abels Decker Kuhfuß Lenzen (ADKL) and has an initial value of €2 billion which will be increased to as high as €10 billion in the future.

Accordingly, the ADKL will cooperate with Masjed Soleyman Petrochemical Industries Company over providing the funds, transferring the technology and implementing contracts for the project within the framework of engineering, procurement, construction and finance (EPCF).

The deal was signed during the visit to Iran by Garrelt Duin, the state minister for economic affairs and energy of Germany's Nordrhein-Westfalen State.

Yousef Davoodi, the managing director of Masjed Soleyman Petrochemical Industries Company, told reporters after signing the contract with ADKL that his company is interested in working with European enterprises.

Davoodi also expressed hope that this would be the start of a mutually beneficial cooperation with ADKL.

Also, ADKL's Bernd Lenzen told reporters that €2 billion will be invested in the first phase of a petrochemical project in Masjed Soleyman.

Lenzen added that this will be increased to €10 billion in further phases.

Masjed Soleyman Petrochemical Industries Company says on its website that a petrochemical project - that it plans to develop in northern parts of Khuzestan province - will produce urea and ammonia as its key products.

The daily production target of each in the first phase will be 3,250 tons of urea, 2,050 tons of ammonia.

# Senior Official: Saudi Has to Ensure Safety of Iranians



Iranian protesters chant slogans in front of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tehran in Sept. 2015 following a deadly stampede at the Hajj.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization says Iran will not send pilgrims for Hajj this year unless Saudi Arabia ensures the safety of the Iranians.

"The dispatch of Iranian pilgrims to Hajj depends on the Saudi side accepting Iran's rational conditions and providing security for Iranian pilgrims," Saeed Ohadi said in a telephone interview with IRIB on Thursday.

The official made the remarks as an Iranian delegation held talks in Saudi Arabia at the official invitation of the new Saudi minister of Hajj to discuss disputes between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia said talks on

Wednesday with visiting Iranian delegates on arrangements for Hajj pilgrims from the Islamic Republic had been "positive."

Ahead of the visit, Iran conveyed its demands and proposals aimed at ensuring the safety of its nationals to the Saudi side through a letter, Ohadi said.

He added that Saudi Arabia is to blame for a five-month delay in making arrangements for this year's Hajj.

Asked about consular services for Iranian pilgrims, Ohadi said, "We have submitted our own proposals and it was planned that Saudi Hajj officials and the country's Foreign Ministry make preparations in this regard."

## UN Official Calls for Iran Role in Syria Peace

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior UN official has underlined Iran's role in efforts to resolve the deadly crisis in Syria, saying Tehran's initiatives could facilitate the peace process.

Ramzi Ezzedine Ramzi, deputy to UN special envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura, made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hussein Amir-Abdollahian here.

He further said Syria was at a

critical juncture, stressing that Iran could play a significant role in speeding up diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict.

The Islamic Republic can help find a way out of the crisis in Syria, added the UN official.

Amir-Abdollahian, for his part, said a political solution to Syria's crisis requires a serious anti-terror fight, adding that terrorism should not be used as a tool to pursue "one-sided goals" in the Arab country.

He lashed out at certain parties for violating the ceasefire agreement in parts of Syria in support of the terrorist groups, which, he said, are used as a bargaining chip in the peace negotiations.

The Iranian official further reaffirmed Tehran's readiness to help settle the Syrian crisis, dismissing any military solution to the five-year-old conflict.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. Damascus says Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar are the main supporters of the militants fighting the government forces.

Iran has repeatedly said a solution to the ongoing situation in Syria is tied to the elimination of foreign-backed Takfiri terrorists operating in the region, especially in Syria and Iraq.

The Holy Qur'an

Surely your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six periods, and He is firm in power; regulating the affair; there is no intercessor except His permission; this is Allah, your Lord, therefore serve Him; will you not then mind?

The Holy Qur'an (10.3)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:01
Evening (Maghreb)	20:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:08
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:51

matic missions remain shut in Iran.

Sharif did not give a clear answer on the airlines that would be allowed to carry passengers from Iran to Saudi Arabia as air links remain severed.

"Directives concerning the air carrier will come from the Saudi civil aviation authority," said Sharif.

Hundreds of people lost their lives in the deadly incident in Mina which took place on September 24, 2015 when two large masses of pilgrims converged at a crossroads during the symbolic ceremony of the stoning of Satan in Jamarat.

Saudi Arabia claims nearly 770 people were killed in the incident, but officials at Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization say about 4,700 people, including more than 460 Iranian pilgrims, lost their lives.

The AP record says more than 2,400 pilgrims died in the incident.

## Press Digest

### Main Driver

**ASIA:** The war on Syria is the main driver of this global crisis, forcing some 5 million Syrians to become refugees. Most of these people – about 2.97 million according to the UNHCR – have travelled to neighboring countries of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Hundreds of thousands have also started a deadly journey to Europe via Turkey and the Mediterranean Sea. To end the crisis is to end the war.

### Immediate Ban

**HEMAYAT:** The developing nations don't trust the nuclear weapon states given their double-standard approach toward Iran's civilian nuclear program and that of Israel. These nations want an immediate ban on all nuclear weapons, as they are illegal and their illegality should be recognized at the UN.

### U.S. Intervention

**HAMSHAHRI:** If anything, it is American intervention not its absence that fuels terrorism in both Syria and Iraq. America wants to prove the opposite. Yet given the realities of the past, it is what it is. With more boots on the ground, Iraq will become a slippery slope and a permanent base for America's Permanent War on Terror. To make matters worse, the new mission creep as a "humanitarian intervention" will escalate into a wider air war spanning Syria and beyond.

### Worsening Situation

**MIZAN:** America's decision to arm terrorist groups has only worsened the situation in Syria. It has escalated the internecine conflict and consumed neighborhoods in inter-militia warfare. It has further created over 10 million refugees, a million of which have already travelled to Europe in just one year for re-settlement and humanitarian protection.