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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Regime Undoing in Bahrain

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani says the recent intensification of a crackdown on Shia Muslims in Bahrain signals the looming demise of the Al Khalifah regime.

In his words, the Bahraini regime's decision to strip prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim of his citizenship is "immature" and "adventurist," which reflects the political crisis in the tiny Persian Gulf island. These measures are a sign that a regime that threatens its prominent figures with revoking their citizenship is drawing its last breaths.

Indeed, the decision is only the latest in a string of inhumane measures that include repressing political dissent, manipulating Shia religious funds, and killing Bahraini civilians. That says why 251 Iranian lawmakers have also issued a statement, condemning the decision as well as the intentional community's silence toward it.

So it's not just a sad day for Shia Muslims. It's also a sad day for the international community, particularly the Human Rights Watch and the United Nations Human Rights Council, which systematically look the other way when they hear news about rights abuses in Bahrain. At best, they simply read out a statement.

It is because of the inaction of rights groups such as the UN Human Rights Council that the Bahraini authorities and security forces continue to commit serious and systematic human rights violations, including torture and widespread arbitrary arrests, against the majority Shia population.

It is also because of the inaction of international rights groups that leading opposition activists sentenced to long prison terms after they called for political change and religious freedom, remain behind bars - as do many others whose alleged crimes involve mostly peaceful street protests.

There has been no condemnation of the regime by the UN Human Rights Council in connection with the policies that have led to widespread torture and unlawful killings either. The Council has yet to investigate hundreds of cases of torture, some involving deaths in custody, and there has been no investigation, let alone prosecution, for command responsibility of people killed in custody as a result of torture. As far as the Human Rights Watch has been able to determine, no authority has ever been convicted of any offence.

The regime claims it has told the UN Human Rights Council that the Interior Ministry has developed a code of conduct and initiated training for security forces "to embed respect for human rights and due process."

But despite the reform efforts the Interior Ministry claims it has taken, there has been a continuing pattern of the use of excessive force by security forces against peaceful protests, as well as wanton beatings, arrests and torture of young men accused of participating in pro-democracy demonstrations and religious rituals.

It is hard to see evidence of reform when we look at how the regime and its security forces have actually been behaving, especially during the mourning month of Muharram. But it is not that hard to see why the unelected regime in Manama can behave like this, can revoke the citizenship of its people, can restrict access to the country for international rights monitors and journalists, and can get away with arbitrary arrests, torture and murder:

The tiny Persian Gulf state is the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet as well as the British naval fleet. It holds thousands of U.S. service members, and has the full military and diplomatic support of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

British Airways Delays Relaunch of Iran Flights

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The long-awaited resumption of British Airways flights to Iran has been delayed until September.

The six-weekly direct service to Tehran from London Heathrow was due to start from July 14 but has now been pushed back due to "some technical issues."

News of the route reopening in February was greeted with enthusiasm by British travelers, with tour operators offering trips

to Iran registering a surge in interest.

But now those keen to travel on the airline's first direct flights to the country since 2012, when political tension was peaking following the severance of diplomatic relations with the West, will have to wait.

A spokesperson for British Airways told Telegraph Travel that Tehran remains an importation destination for the airline.

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Iran Warns of Daesh Rise in Afghanistan



Gholam-Hussein Dehqani, Iran's deputy permanent representative to the UN

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's mission to the United Nations has expressed concern over a rise in the activities of the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group in neighboring Afghanistan.

Gholam-Hussein Dehqani, Iran's deputy ambassador to the UN, called attention to a United Nations report which has found that armed conflict in Afghanistan currently stands at its highest level since 2001.

"Afghanistan continues to face major security, political, and

economic challenges," Dehqani told a UN Security Council session on Tuesday.

He voiced Tehran's concern about the growth of Daesh in Afghanistan as well as the emergence there of affiliated outfits like Daesh-Khorasan, the so-called "Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan," and "East Turkestan Islamic Movement."

Failure to seriously confront these groups, Dehqani said, would mean that we should expect a more troubled

future.

The Takfiri group, which is mainly based in Iraq and Syria, has managed to make inroads in Afghanistan. The Afghan province of Nangarhar bordering Pakistan has been the area where Daesh has gained a foothold.

Daesh has reportedly managed to establish connections with Taliban's splinter groups, especially those believed to be discontent with changes in Taliban's leadership.

The Takfiri group has also enjoyed defections from al-Qaeda in Afghanistan although the latter's leader Ayman al-Zawahiri has pledged allegiance to Taliban's new leader Haibatullah Akhundzada.

The top UN official in Afghanistan said Wednesday the country faces the risk of a new spiral in violence following a series of attacks on civilians in the last few months.

Bomb attacks killed at least 22 people in Kabul and the northern province of Badakhshan on Monday, underlining how dangerous Afghanistan remains.

Nicholas Haysom, the UN secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan, said he was deeply concerned about violence against civilians, with attacks continuing during Islam's holy month of Ramadan.

"There is a risk, in my view, that the conflict may enter a new phase, which could see retaliatory acts of vengeance and an escalating spiral of violence," said Haysom.

Dehqani said Iran "considers the development of economic cooperation with Afghanistan a preamble toward peace and security" in the Central Asian country.

He said Tehran has helped Kabul complete 300 Afghan-based projects, besides offering Afghan expatriates numerous educational opportunities, and most recently signed a tripartite agreement with India in order to facilitate trade.

The deal, he said links Afghanistan to the southern Iran port of Chabahar, thus connecting the landlocked country to open seas.

Ministry Releases Video of Takfiri Hideout Raid

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- After thwarting a Takfiri-Wahhabi plot to stage attacks in Tehran, Iran's Intelligence Ministry on Wednesday released a video showing the country's crack forces raiding the hideout of the terrorists in the capital.

The video shows the forces amassing at the entrance of a residence before scaling its walls and apprehending one of the elements in his sleep.

It also features the footage of a Peugeot 405, apparently wired and laden with explosives for a bombing attack.

On Tuesday, Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi briefed reporters on the recent swoop, saying as many as 10 terrorists were apprehended from June 14 to 20 in Tehran and three border and central provinces.

(Continued on Page 7)

Ramadhan Day-to-Day Supplications

17th day

“اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنِي فِيهِ لِصَالِحِ الْأَعْمَالِ، وَاصِلِي فِيهِ الْحَوَائِجَ وَالْأَمَالَ، يَا مَنْ لَا يَحْتَاجُ إِلَى التَّفْسِيرِ وَالسُّؤَالِ، يَا عَالِمًا بِمَا فِي صُدُورِ الْعَالَمِينَ، صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ الطَّاهِرِينَ.”

“O Allah, guide me towards good deeds. Grant my needs and wants. O One Who needs no reminders. O One Who is aware of what passes in the hearts of the beings.”

Ramadhan Day-to-Day Supplications

18th day

“اللَّهُمَّ نَبِّهْنِي فِيهِ لِرِكَاتِ أَسْحَارِهِ، وَنُورِ قَلْبِي بِصَيَاءِ أَنْوَارِهِ، وَخِذْ بِي كُلِّ أَعْضَائِي إِلَى إِيَّاهُ أَثَارَهُ، يُورِكِ يَا مَنْ نُورُ قُلُوبِ الْعَارِفِينَ.”

“O Allah, awake me up to get the blessings of its Suhour (before the formal start of a fast) and fill my heart with its lights. Make all my organs to follow its obligatories. O One Who enlightens the hearts of the knowing people.”

Press Digest

War Victims

ASIA: The long-suffering people of Syria are victims of outright American military violence and of war waged by its terror proxies. Syria bleeds as a result of American regime-change fantasies and military-energy provisions. Millions of people have also had their homes destroyed and are forced to make dangerous treks in hopes of finding safety behind the closed doors of Europe.

International Obligations

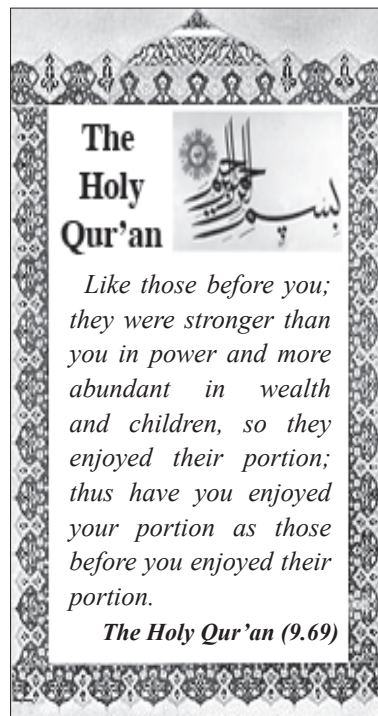
QODS: Iranian and Russian planes and military advisors are in Syria at the request of Damascus while American forces have received no invitation of any sort. Under International Law, Iran and Russia have every right to help Syria in its ongoing war on terror. These very simple facts are rarely presented to people in the West who have no idea that by supporting various terrorist groups their officials have been complicit in war crimes and crimes committed against humanity.

Relentless Campaign

HEMAYAT: The U.S. authorities' relentless campaign to hunt down and block whistleblower Edward Snowden's attempts to seek asylum is deplorable and amounts to a gross violation of his human rights. This is significant because the Western press coverage of the Snowden drama refuses to question whether his human rights are being violated by the U.S. government. Perhaps, they are too scared to question the authorities.

Western Press

HAMSHAHHRI: The press is not that free in the West, where we are seeing some very troubling attacks against the media and against the idea that journalists should be free to publish secret state documents and criticize increased surveillance. Such intrusive tactics are the biggest threat to press freedom in the United States as well, where authorities prevent journalists from keeping their sources secret and secure, forcing them to either quit or flee the country.



Like those before you; they were stronger than you in power and more abundant in wealth and children, so they enjoyed their portion; thus have you enjoyed your portion as those before you enjoyed their portion.

The Holy Qur'an (9.69)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:07
Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:03
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:50