

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday strongly condemned as “inhumane” the deadly attack and expressed condolences with the Turkish government and nation and the bereaved families of the victims.

“Extremism and terrorism knows no borders,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said, calling for a “collective and global determination to fight the ominous phenomena.” Qasemi reiterated Iran’s preparedness to cooperate with the regional countries to uproot the dangerous scourge.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The number of Iranians going on pilgrimage to Iraq’s holy cities during the current Iranian year (which started March 20) is planned to reach 1.5 million a senior official at Iran’s Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization announced.

Mohsen Nezaefati said the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization dispatched 600,000 pilgrims to Iraq over the past year, adding that it plans to double the capacity or even more. “Increasing the number of dispatched pilgrims to Iraq’s holy cities to 1.5 million is among the objectives of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization this year,” he said.

Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int’l Staff Writer

Unity: The Greatest Obligatory Duty in Islam

Iranian Researchers Find More Effective Treatment for Stomach Ulcers



Iran’s Tasisat Daryaei Comes 8th at Futsal Int’l Cup



Putin Orders Gov’t to Normalize Trade Ties With Turkey



The Iranian Connection to Bayt al-Moqaddas

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“When my Sunnah (practice) is tampered with and changed, its supporters will rise from the land called Khorasan. Anyone they confront will be defeated and (all) will yield all to them, until they finally approach Bayt al-Moqaddas.”

The above hadith, attributed to the Messenger of Mercy, is found in both Sunni and Shi’a texts. It is a clear reference to the resurgence of the Muslims of Iran, regarding whom Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) had also reportedly given tidings, by pointing at his famous Iranian companion Salman al-Farisi, that his people will acquire knowledge, *“even if it is to be found in Pleiades.”*

Thanks to the Islamic Revolution that triumphed in 1979 under the wise leadership of the Prophet’s descendant, Imam Khomeini (RA), Iran today is the cynosure of all eyes. The dynamism of the country’s Islamic Republic system, if it annoys the enemies of humanity, it is inspiration for the world’s oppressed nations, yearning to break free from the shackles of oppression, exploitation, occupation and usurpation.

That is the reason the downtrodden people of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Bahrain, Nigeria, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Egypt, Tunisia and elsewhere, consider the Islamic Republic of Iran as a role model, especially in view of the above mentioned hadith which means to say that the supporters of the Prophet’s Sunnah from Khorasan will surmount every obstacle on their way towards liberating the Zionist occupied Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas.

Now we understand why Imam Khomeini, whose vision foresaw the future, designated *Jum’at-al-Weda* or Farewell Friday of the Month of Ramadhan as World Qods Day.

The goal of that Sage of the Age, who used to say, without mincing words *“Israel is a cancerous tumour that ought to be weeded out from the region,”* was to mobilize the Ummah for the cherished goal of liberation of Islam’s former Qibla, Bayt al-Moqaddas, at a time when the Great Satan (the US), along with Arab reactionaries, had almost succeeded in obliterating from Muslim minds the uprooting of Israel.

Today, when World Qods Day is no longer confined to the geographical borders of Iran, which the Zionists, the West, and Arab reactionary regimes had tried to do, and has generated a tidal wave all over the globe, it will not be out of context to study the Iranian connection to Bayt al-Moqaddas.

One Iranian Among 41 Killed: Terrorism in Istanbul; Daesh No. 1 Suspect



Forensic police work the explosion site at Ataturk airport on June 28, 2016 in Istanbul after two explosions followed by gunfire hit Turkey's biggest airport.

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) -- **Three suicide attackers killed at least 41 people and wounded dozens more at Istanbul’s main airport on Tuesday night, in the latest in a string of terrorist attacks in Turkey, a NATO ally once seen as a bastion of stability but now increasingly consumed by the chaos of the Middle East.**

Hours after the assault, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim of Turkey said that early indications pointed to an operation carried out by Daesh, but as of early Wednesday, the group had not claimed responsibility for the attack.

The attack began shortly before 10 p.m. Tuesday, Turkish officials

said, when two gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons at a security checkpoint outside Istanbul’s Ataturk airport, one of Europe’s busiest. They then detonated their explosives, setting off two fireballs. A third attacker set off explosives in the parking lot.

Turkey has faced a string of terrorist attacks over the past year, including several in Istanbul, as it confronts threats from both Daesh and Kurdish militants fighting a war with the Turkish state in the southeast.

The Istanbul governor’s office said on Wednesday morning that 41 people had died and 239 others got injured.

Most of the dead were Turks, al-

though some were foreigners, Yildirim said. The three attackers were killed when they detonated their explosives, he said.

One Iranian national lost his life in the terrorist attack, a Foreign Ministry official in Tehran said. Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Qashqavi said five other Iranians sustained injuries.

Iran suspended all flights to Istanbul’s main international airport on Wednesday.

“Due to last night’s explosions at Ataturk Airport ... all Iranian flights are suspended until their safety and security are guaranteed,” Reza Jafarzadeh, the director of the public relations at Iran’s Civil Aviation Organization, said.

Outside the terminal on Tuesday night, as calls went out on local news channels for blood donors and the Turkish authorities imposed a ban on publishing images of the scene of the attack, ambulances streamed in, while hundreds of dazed and scared travelers sat on the sidewalk waiting for information. And more travelers, many in tears, were streaming out of the airport.

“There were blood splatters everywhere,” said Eylul Kaya, 37, sitting outside with her 1-year-old son. “I covered my boy’s eyes and we ran out.”

As Turkey has faced several deadly terrorist attacks over the past year, Kaya said she never thought she would find herself in the middle of one. “We’ve watched these attacks on TV for months, but I never imagined it would happen with so much security in an airport,” she said.

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President Rouhani: Iran Will Never Initiate an Aggression

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- **President Hassan Rouhani has said Iran will never use its military might to invade another country but will decisively defend itself against any potential aggression.**

“The armed forces of the Islamic Iran have never thought of and will never think of violating others’ rights but are determined to defend the country decisively,” Rouhani said at a ceremony with military commanders on Tuesday night.

“The Islamic Republic’s armed forces are firmly standing against the enemies, and will always maintain their readiness,” he said.

The president emphasized that his administration will do its best to help enhance Iran’s defensive power.

He said the Iranian people appreciate the fact that the state of security in Iran — located in the middle of a highly insecure region — is beholden to the readiness of the armed forces.

Referring to insecurity in neighboring countries, Rouhani said Iran fights those groups that are after

disrupting the security of the region. He said the Islamic Republic, however, has no intention to meddle in the affairs of other countries.

The security of regional countries is intertwined, the president said, adding Iran deems it its duty to help other countries achieve and maintain security.

Iran has been offering advisory military assistance to Iraq and Syria, both of which are battling terrorist campaigns by the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group, among other terror outfits.

“What we wish for all our neighbors is what the people of those countries wish,” he said, adding, “In each country, democracy and the rule of the people should prevail.”

Prior to the speech by the Iranian president, Defense Minister Brigadier General Hussein Dehqan, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, and Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)’s Navy briefed participants on the plans and performance of the Iranian armed forces.

Putin Lifts Travel Ban on Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- **President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday lifted travel restrictions to Turkey and ordered trade normalized after he mended ties with counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in their first call since Ankara downed a Russian jet.**

In the wake of the incident last November Moscow slapped a range of sanctions on Ankara, including an embargo on some Turkish food products, as well as a ban on charter flights and sales of package tours to the country and the reintroduction of visas for Turkish visitors.

“I want to start with the question of tourism... we are lifting the administrative restrictions in this area,” Putin told government ministers in televised comments.

“I ask that the Russian government begins the process of normalizing general trade and economic ties with Turkey,” he said.

The diplomatic breakthrough with Rus-

sia was forged in a phone call by Putin to Erdogan after the Turkish strongman on Monday sent a letter to the Kremlin leader that Moscow said contained an apology.

In a statement, the Kremlin said that Putin expressed “profound condolences” over the bombing and shooting attack at Istanbul’s Ataturk airport.

The Turkish presidency said in a statement that Erdogan and Putin “highlighted the importance of the normalization of bilateral relations between Turkey and Russia.”

Erdogan is expected to meet with Putin in September on the sidelines of the forthcoming G20 summit in China for their first face-to-face talks since the start of the diplomatic row, a Turkish official told AFP on Wednesday speaking on condition of anonymity.

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