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In the Name of the Most High
Viewpoint

Australia's Abu Ghraib

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Australia is abusing and torturing its jailed indigenous children and UNICEF says it "may amount to torture". We couldn't agree more:

Footage from an ABC investigation this week revealed juvenile detention centre guards in Australia's Northern Territory shackling, hooding, taunting, and teargassing detained children - as well as leaving them in solitary confinement for extended periods of time. International law says such abuse of children may amount to torture by the government responsible for their care.

What's more, the haunting footage that aired this week on the investigative program "Four Corners" continues to provoke comparisons to the U.S. military's illegal torture of detainees in Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo Bay, scandalizing human rights observers in Australia and worldwide.

In one segment that has garnered particular outrage, 17-year-old Dylan Voller was shown being hooded and shackled to a chair, where he was left in solitary confinement for hours. This is while as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Australian government must fulfil its promise: 'No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment...Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.'

Far from it, many similar reports of abuse at such detention centres have also been ignored in the past. What we saw in the documentary program is pure evil. This is juvenile justice not just in the Northern Territory but across the whole country, a racist system that punishes troubled children instead of rehabilitating them. The tragic part is that the government which claims to be a protector of human rights has been in the know for a long time, yet did nothing about it.

It gets interesting to note that local media and rights groups in the Northern Territory have been reporting the systematic abuse for years, but it was largely ignored by the government.

The Northern Territory covers over 1,300 square kilometres and has a population of just about 243,700; a third of whom are Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal people had made many complaints over the years. They have been talking about this sort of treatment for years. The problem is that the government and the international community are not listening. But for how long?

Whatever this is, any inquiries into this centre as regards police and government corruption and systematic abuse of young offenders should lead to some kind of justice for the long-suffering Aboriginal communities in Australia. Unlike the past "Royal Commission" inquiries, this time they should turn up the evidence and the information that the whole world saw on the TV program. They should also lead to some effective action on the part of the government.

We all know what happens when countries that are not in good terms with the West end up in scandals like this. The international backlash is always overwhelming. There will always be widespread outrage and condemnations at the United Nations over its 'poor human rights record,' followed by resolutions that call for sanctions and punishments. The question is whether the world body is brave and fair enough to fulfil its mandate and abandon the culture of cover-up and double-standard as regards poor human rights record in Australia?

U.S. Lawmaker Slams Resistance to Iran Deal

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- A Democratic lawmaker has criticized opponents of a multi-billion dollar deal between Boeing and Iran Air and urged economic engagement with the Islamic Republic.

"I think it's appalling that people are marching a crusade against selling Boeing airplanes to Iran," said Oregon Congressman Earl

Blumenauer during a panel hosted by the progressive advocacy group J Street. "That order would create about 100,000 American jobs over the next ten years."

Blumenauer stressed the "pro-found opportunities" available for "economic linkage" with Iran.

"We've got

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Iran, Ghana Discuss Fighting Terrorism



Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif, left, and Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama shake hands as they pose for photographers in Accra.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif says Iran is ready to cooperate with Ghana in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

"A new chapter has begun in the very good relations between Iran and Ghana," Zarif said in a meeting with Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama in Accra.

He added that Tehran and Accra enjoy a "very good level of bilateral cooperation" and "very good and close multilateral cooperation in international organizations and bodies."

The foreign minister said the trade delegation which is accompanying him in his tour of West African countries is among the biggest in recent years.

He added that the Iranian businessmen are ready to expand trade ties with Ghana.

Zarif is in Ghana on the second leg of a four-nation African tour. He paid a visit to Nigeria before arriving in Accra and will be traveling to Guinea-Conakry and Mali on the continuation of his tour.

The Ghanaian president, for his part, said he paid a visit to Tehran in

February, almost a month after the implementation of a nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, and noted that his talks with Iranian officials were successful.

On January 16, Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia – plus Germany started implementing the nuclear agreement, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which they reached in July 2015.

Mahama added that the two countries have the potential to improve cooperation in oil, gas, agriculture

Basij Commander Visits Syrian Town

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The commander of a key Iranian military force recently visited the border between Palestine and Syria.

General Muhammad Reza Naqdi, commander of the Basij Resistance Force, toured the abandoned Syrian town of Quneitra on the Golan Heights, the Iranian Fars news agency reported.

The report did not say when the visit happened.

Quneitra is a Syrian town that lies along the border between Palestine and Syria, and which was abandoned after the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Iran is committed to helping Syrian President Bashar Assad thwart a foreign-backed invasion of the country by Takfiri and other terrorist groups.

In January 2015, another Iranian general Muhammad Ali Allahdadi was martyred in an airstrike by the occupying regime of Israel near Quneitra along with several other Iranians and six Hezbollah fighters.

The Basij is a volunteer paramilitary organization under the control of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp. An auxiliary force, it is tasked with internal security operations and has branches across Iran.

Urmia Lake Turns Red

WASHINGTON (Live Science) -- Iran's briny Lake Urmia recently appeared in satellite images with blood-red waters resembling the aftermath of a particularly gruesome crime scene — and the perpetrators are likely microorganisms that thrive on salt and light.

As water levels in the lake have receded over the summer months, salt concentration in the water has gone up, according to NASA. Lake Urmia's deep-red tones, captured on July 18 by the agency's Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument on the Aqua satellite, are thought to be a byproduct of certain bacteria and algae in the lake that thrive in high-salt conditions.

The lake, which lies near the border Iran shares with Turkey, held a green

tint when photographed by MODIS on April 23. Just a few months later, it looks more like a puddle of blood.

This color shift has been observed in Lake Urmia before, triggered by seasonal changes. Snowmelt and rainfall in the spring infuse the lake with fresh water, keeping salt levels down. But as summer progresses, fresh water ceases to flow into the lake, and evaporation increases the water's saltiness.

That's when certain microorganisms can gain the upper hand in the lake ecosystem. Scientists point to a bacteria family called Halobacteriaceae and the algae family Dunaliella as the most likely suspects for Lake Urmia's current crimson color, according to NASA's Earth Observatory.

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The Holy Qur'an

Never stand in it; certainly a masjid founded on piety from the very first day is more deserving that you should stand in it; in it are men who love that they should be purified; and Allah loves those who purify themselves.

The Holy Qur'an (9.108)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:11
Evening (Maghreb)	20:32
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:32
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:10

and education.

He also pointed to the five-year foreign-backed militancy in Syria and said the crisis in the Arab country cannot be solved through military approaches.

The Ghanaian president added that his country supports political bids to settle the conflict in Syria.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-sponsored militancy since March 2011. UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict. The UN has stopped its official casualty count in the Middle Eastern state, citing its inability to verify the figures it receives from various sources.

The Takfiri terrorists operating in the Arab country have suffered major setbacks over the past few months as the Syrian army has managed to liberate a number of areas from the grip of the extremists.

Press Digest

Devil's Advocate

RESALAT: The U.S. which claims to be an advocate of human rights is itself the biggest violator in the world: Last year, some 1,029 black people were killed by the U.S. police. The U.S. also ranks 46th in the world when it comes to freedom of press! It has not yet joined the most important convention related to the economic, social and cultural rights that is among the most important human rights documents.

Radicalisation Program

VATAN EMROOZ: The new authoritarian moves and programs are destined to radicalize more Muslims and spawn further homegrown attacks in Europe. The irony about the U.S.-led coalition against the terrorist group of ISIL is that every single member in some way or another has also contributed to the creation of the very terrorist group they are now fighting against.

End War

QODS: Increased surveillance power, increased police power, increased military power, and a thoroughgoing support for continued war against Islam and its beliefs - instead of support for military withdrawal and rolling back the bogus war on terror in the Middle East. These measures are not going to ensure security for the West. First they need to end the illegal war on Syria and the rest is history.

Flames of Hatred

SIASAT ROOZ: What we are witnessing in bankrupt Europe amid skepticism of unity and immigrants is the prelude to what can really be described as nothing other than pouring more fuel on the flames of Islamophobia, virulent and racist hatred, and radical authoritarian nationalism. They wanted to regime change Syria. Now they can't even deal with their own home-grown terrorism. Sad but true.