

**In the Name of the Most High
Viewpoint**

**Darayya: The End of
Rebellion in Syria**

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

An early rebel stronghold that ended up under siege for a solid four years of the Syrian war, the Damascus suburb of Daraya has finally been evacuated under a deal between government forces and foreign-backed rebels to resolve the situation, allowing everyone out of the area.

The evacuation puts an effective end to fighting in the western Ghouta region, as it was the last rebel holdout. Some 700 rebel gunmen were evacuated in the deal and are being taken to the rebel-held Idlib province. An estimated 4,000 civilians will be sheltered in an area further south.

The deal was made between the rebels and the government, which didn't make the UN and the United States happy, since they like to be the ones brokering such deals. They officially expressed "concern" over the deal, saying they weren't consulted at all on the matter.

This is nonsense. The deal is what a good deal is all about. It marks a considerable victory for the Syrian government in securing the area south of the capital for civilians. That says why rebels who use civilians as human shields were defiant while being evacuated, vowing they would return some day to take over the rest of the country!

Regardless, the fall of Darayya does make the point that there is indeed no country for terrorists in Syria. It is also the beginning of the end for the foreign-backed rebellion, masquerading as a "democracy" and "revolution" that has clung on in the Damascus suburbs for five years. Of course, this is not what the United States, the main sponsor of Takfiris and sectarian elements had in mind when they orchestrated the bogus revolution back in 2011.

They know and the whole world knows that the fall of Darayya will have a domino effect, piling pressure on the last remaining pockets of rebel forces around the capital and elsewhere in the country. Likewise, a similar fate awaits other rebels, who have made alliances with terror groups, and who are still doing the bidding of the United States and its regional allies.

The United States and its regional allies might spar in public, but share an interest in countering what they see as rising Iranian influence in the Middle East. The regime changers share strategic goals, particularly around the regional ascendance of Iran, regime change in Syria and partitioning of Iraq.

It's all the reason why the terror-mongers don't qualify to be at the forefront of the war on terror. The world community needs a global coalition to prevent fanatics like ISIL, Al-Qaeda and their spinoffs from taking charge and spreading their violent creed across the globe. There is no alternative.

Iran's Drug Fight Poses a Dilemma

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The death penalty has failed to reduce drug trafficking in Iran, a senior Iranian judiciary official said on Saturday shortly before the scheduled execution of 12 people for narcotics-related offences.

Most narcotics are smuggled into Iran along its long, often lawless border with Afghanistan, which supplies about 90% of the world's opium from which heroin is made.

"The truth is, the execution of drug smugglers has had no deterrent effect," Muhammad Baqer Olfat, deputy head of judiciary for social affairs, was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency.

"We have fought full-force against smugglers according to the law, but unfortunately we are experiencing an increase in the volume of drugs trafficked to Iran, the transit of drugs through the country, the variety of drugs, and the number of people who are involved in it," Olfat said.

He said he had suggested to the judiciary chief that rather than the death penalty, traffickers should serve long prison terms with hard labor.

Muhammad-Javad Larijani, the secretary of Iran's Human Rights Council and a brother of the powerful judiciary chief, said in 2015 that more than 90% of executions in the country were for drug-related crimes.

He said the death penalty has not led to a significant fall in drug-related crimes and that the policy must be re-evaluated.

The Islamic Republic seized 388 tonnes of opium in 2012, around 72% of all such seizures globally, but says it has lost many security personnel in skirmishes with drug traffickers in volatile regions bordering Afghanistan and also Pakistan.

The United Nations has repeatedly praised Iran's battle against narcotics trafficking.

Defense Minister:

**Iran Produces All
Types of Radars**



President Hassan Rouhani tours an exhibition of homemade air defense systems, with the Me'raj radar on the background.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hussein Dehqan says the Islamic Republic produces every type of radar and is currently exporting the domestically-manufactured equipment to some countries.

"We are producing radars of all families, including short- and long-range radars, and are even exporting them to some countries," Dehqan said in a televised program.

"We have no limitation to the production of radars," he added.

In January, Iran's navy successfully tested a new radar system during large-scale military drills south of the country.

The L-band radar system, capable of detecting both aerial and surface threats at the same time, was successfully tested in waters near Kinarak Port, southeast Iran.

In October 2015, Iran unveiled a new domestically-built long-range digital radar system, dubbed Fat'h 14 (Conquer 14), which is capable of detecting enemies' strategic objectives.

Iran unveils Fat'h 14 long-range radar system on October 18, 2015 during the Iranian army's massive drill.

The radar system has a range of 600 kilometers and can detect small airborne targets at a high altitude.

High agility and swift connection to command and control network are among other features of the semi-conductor radar.

Also in October 2015, Iran unveiled a domestically-built 3D search and control radar system, dubbed Qamar, with the capability of tracking over 100 targets within a 450-kilometer radius.

The Iranian defense minister, who was elaborating on the country's defensive achievements, added that Iran is currently capable of designing and producing all types of weapons it requires.

"The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are prepared to

The Holy Qur'an

Now surely the friends of Allah-- they shall have no fear nor shall they grieve. Those who believe and guarded (against evil): They shall have good news in this world's life and in the hereafter; there is no changing the words of Allah; that is the mighty achievement.

The Holy Qur'an (10.64)

PRAYER TIMINGS

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Noon (Zohr) | 13:05 |
| Evening (Maghreb) | 19:56 |
| Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow" | 05:05 |
| Sunrise "Tomorrow" | 06:33 |

such extent that no one would entertain the notion of attacking Iran," Dehqan said.

However, he added, this does not mean that the country's enemies such as the U.S., the occupying regime of Israel and Saudi Arabia do not yearn to threaten or attack Iran and they, therefore, raise the issue of "options on the table" every now and then but they are reluctant to take any action because "its outcome would be failure."

He further emphasized that ground combat is one of the several fields in defense industries that Iran is active in and noted that the country is producing tanks, personnel carriers, tactical vehicles and ammunition inside the country.

Pointing to Iran's missile capabilities, Dehqan said, "In missile industries, we are working in the three areas of defense, ballistic and land and sea cruise [missiles]."

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**Space Cooperation Deal
Signed With Bolivia**

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif has held talks with Bolivian President Evo Morales.

During the meeting in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz, the two senior officials exchanged views about issues of common interest.

Later in the day, the Iranian foreign minister and his Bolivian counterpart, David Choquehuanca, attended the opening ceremony of the first trade and investment meeting of Iran and Bolivia.

Zarif delivered a speech at the biggest economic meeting between the two countries in the presence of nearly 200 businessmen and economic activists of the Iranian and Bolivian state and private sectors.

Following the Iranian minister's speech, Choquehuanca awarded Bolivia's highest state medal, Cón-dor de los andes, to Zarif.

Meanwhile, Iran and Bolivia signed a document for cooperation in the space sector in the presence of the two foreign ministers.

Zarif kicked off his six-nation Latin American tour on Monday at the head of a high-ranking politico-economic delegation comprising 120 businessmen and financial executives from government and private sectors. The tour started off in Cuba where he met with Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez and the country's President Raul Castro.

The Iranian foreign minister also paid visits to Nicaragua and Ecuador. He wrapped up his trip to Chile and arrived in Bolivia on Friday and was to visit Venezuela on the final leg of his tour.

The Bolivian president paid a visit to Tehran in November 2015 to attend the third summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF). The fourth GECF summit is due in Bolivia in 2017. Morales also met with senior Iranian officials including Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Press Digest

Smuggled Goods

DONYAYE EQTESAD: No one in his right mind would ever support the idea of smuggling consumer goods into the country. The government should stop goods smuggling as the only way to help and protect domestic producers, absorb foreign investment and create new jobs. The main problem here is that some smugglers use official channels to get their goods into the market which is weird at best.

Big Deal

RAJA NEWS: The nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers is not a big deal at all. It is wrong for the government not to criticise the West, particularly the United States, for not implementing the terms of the deal after one year. They have no intention to come clean after what Iran has done this far, which has also been endorsed by the IAEA.

Naval Tensions

ASR IRAN: Iranian naval forces are duty-bound to give warning shots to those foreign vessels which enter our waters illegally. If they decide to carry out any aggressive manoeuvre, our forces are more than ready to retaliate, even against the American ships. International Law has set aside specific rules for self-defence in such circumstances.

Israeli Nukes

TABNAK: It is in the interest of all nations to redouble efforts to immediately halt Israel's nuclear weapons program and unconditionally begin equitable negotiations. Blessing the regime with military firepower and diplomatic cover in the world arena is not going to do that.

Yemen War

IRAN: Tehran is convinced there is no solution to Yemen's problem except through dialogue, which must be Yemeni. Naval blockade, military deployments, and sending tanks and artillery to the border are no solution at all.