

Kayhan International

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9
Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337
Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336
Subscription Ext.: 2322
Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120
Website: www.kayhan.ir/en
E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com
P.O. Box: 11365/9631
Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,
Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Liberation of Aleppo in Sight

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The Syrian army has slowed its advance in Aleppo to let remaining civilians leave militant-held territory. But as things stand and as expected, a victory is still firmly in sight after President Bashar al-Assad vowed that retaking the city would change the course of the six-year-old war.

The last three weeks have seen foreign-backed terrorists driven from most of their territory in what was once Syria's largest city, the eastern section of which they have controlled since 2012.

Although there are still some rural areas in militant hands, Aleppo is their last big urban redoubt. The prospect of its fall, following months of government gains elsewhere, has brought Syria and its allies closer to victory than at any point since the early months of a U.S.-backed war that has killed hundreds of thousands and made half of Syrians homeless.

That said, there is no doubt that militants will try and abuse the urgent humanitarian pause to their advantage. They have used past humanitarian pauses to resupply ammunition and to strengthen their positions, worsening the suffering of civilians.

They have lost some 90 percent of their territory in Eastern Aleppo. They are desperate for a breather. Logic dictates they should never be given another chance.

Any U.S.-backed resolution at the UN for ceasefire will also amount to nothing because it doesn't mean peace. Their proxy forces failed to produce a total, uncontested military victory. That explains why Washington is deeply troubled by the current situation. It is desperate to slow down the full liberation of Eastern Aleppo.

On the same score, the militants have also called for an immediate five-day ceasefire and the evacuation of civilians and wounded, but have so far given no indication they are ready to withdraw!

Protest beyond international law is not a departure from the Security Council; it is absolutely essential to it. There is no silver lining to the Aleppo pause. The people of Syria will have to make their own. They know full well that the key policy in any new ceasefire is not to end their suffering. It is Washington's last straw in trying to save its proxies and maintain the continuity of the war.

After six years of all-around, hell-raising bloodshed, for the Syrian people living with integrity means not taking part in Washington's lie, not settling for less than what they know they deserve which is victory, and asking for what they want and need from the Security Council:

Which is unconditional support, rejecting bogus U.S. ceasefire resolutions even though it might create conflict or tension, fighting terror in ways that are in harmony with their own national interests, and making choices based on what they believe, and not what the globalist criminal syndicate wants to impose.

Iran Blasts New Zionist Settlement Bill



Iranian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned a recent Zionist bill to legalize some 4,000 settler units in the occupied West bank.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Iranian Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned a recent Zionist bill to legalize some 4,000 settler units in the occupied West Bank, saying the Tel Aviv regime's settlements are a "mass and blatant violation" of international law.

The illegitimate nature of the Zionist regime is based on the occupation of Palestinian lands, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said. "The Zionist regime's settlement plan is against regulations and principles recognized by

the international community, particularly international human rights and international humanitarian law," he added.

He emphasized that those who are behind such moves are flagrantly violating international law and "must be prosecuted."

"The settlements are a serious obstacle to the materialization of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination," Qassemi said.

The Iranian spokesperson urged all "government and international institutions" to make use of all possible means at their disposal "in order to oblige the Zionist regime [Israel] to abide by international rules and principles."

He also called on governments,

Commander: Enemies Within Iran's Fire Range

TEHRAN (FNA) - Deputy Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri scoffed at the U.S. officials' war rhetoric against Tehran, and underlined that the interests of enemies are within the reach of Iran's fire range.

"Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran's military forces enjoy supremacy over the Persian Gulf region more than any other time," General Jazayeri said on Saturday.

"The military and security conditions of the Persian Gulf are in a way that the enemy's forces and equipment are fully within the range of the Iranian military men ('s fire)," he added.

General Jazayeri warned that any naïve and unprofessional measure by the U.S. and its allies will receive a crushing response from the Iranian Armed Forces.

3 SH Helicopters, 1 Hovercraft Join Iranian Navy Fleet

The Iranian Navy was on Saturday equipped with 3 new SH3D helicopters, 1 hovercraft and a new tugboat.

The announcement was made by Commander of the first zone of the Iranian Navy's Airborne Unit Captain Seyed Mansour Rouholamini.

Elaborating on the features of the three helicopters, he said, "The system to fire torpedo and the sonar system to track the submarines have been mounted for the first time on the helicopters."

Captain Rouholamini also said that a BH7 hovercraft joined the army's airborne unit.

Meantime, an overhauled tugboat, named 'Zarrineh Roud', was delivered to the Navy in the Southern port city of Bandar Abbas in the presence of Iranian Army Commander Major General Ataollah Salehi on Saturday.

The tugboat can also be used for extinguishing fire given the big pumps used in it.

Also the navigation system of 'Khark' warship was for the first time overhauled by the Iranian experts.

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari announced late last month the country's plans to unveil and launch home-made Naval products and equipment in near future.

"The (Fateh) submarine is being tested at present," Sayyari told reporters in Tehran.

He also said that overhauling operations have successfully been carried out on Tareq submarine, and added, "We are now able to overhaul advanced kilo-class submarines and we are now overhauling a second heavy submarine."

The Holy Qur'an

They who taunt those of the faithful who give their alms freely, and those who give to the extent of their earnings and scoff at them; Allah will pay them back their scoffing, and they shall have a painful chastisement.

The Holy Qur'an (9:79)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:58
Evening (Maghreb)	16:51
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:35
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:05

the United Nations and other relevant bodies not to suffice to merely condemning the Zionist moves in words without taking any practical measure.

The world bodies make an "immediate and practical" move to "stop the continuation of inhuman and illegal activities of this regime and prevent [the construction of] new settlements in Palestine," Qassemi said.

Zionist lawmakers on Wednesday approved a hugely-controversial bill legalizing some 4,000 settler units built on private Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

The international community regards all settlements as illegal. The Tel Aviv regime has, however, continued to expand its illegal construction activities, defying warnings that the move could hamper the so-called Middle East peace talks.

Press Digest

Economic Warfare

KAYHAN: Pro-Rouhani currents would like to praise the nuclear deal and ignore Washington's sanctions. They claim this benefits people. As maintained by Ayatollah Khamenei, the nuclear deal should serve as an invaluable experience for Iranians. Some currents are not happy with this which is understandable. They just don't want to try and work harder. In the economic warfare, they just can't let go of their astronomical wages!

Swiss Ties

DONYAYE EQTESAD: Switzerland seeks greater economic ties with Iran. It seeks greater cooperation in the financial and banking sectors and they have done so accordingly. Talks are underway to speed up the process in the coming year. Talks are also underway to bolster industrial and trade cooperation. The idea is to increase the volume of trade as well.

Stock Exchange Transparency

HAMSHAHRI: Official figures show one third of all bourse companies refuse to publish their annual financial reports. This has cost their share holders dearly in recent months. This has also become a huge challenge for investors and stock market managers. No one can buy or sell shares because at least 100 major companies refuse to publish their financial reports.

Persian Gulf Summit

VATAN EMROOZ: The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council communique has stressed the need for Iran to change its policy in the region, so as to abide by what they call international conventions and treaties and not to embrace and harbour terrorist groups, and not to ignite sectarian strife in region. The problem is, they never bother to talk about their own proxy wars in Iraq, Syria and Yemen or how they are going to deal with their defeats. Except for Oman, they launched an all-out war against Yemen but still failed to regime change it.

Iran Slams Instrumental Use of Human Rights

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran's High Council for Human Rights on Saturday criticized certain states across the globe for using the issue of human rights as a tool to advance their personal and military agendas.

In a Saturday statement, the Iranian Judiciary's Human Rights Council said, "Instrumental use of the issue of human rights as well as the existing international institutions (by certain countries around the world)

to impose their ideological, cultural, political and economic dominance over other countries should be completely stopped." The statement was published on the official website of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of Human Rights Day, which is observed by the international community every year on December 10.

The statement added that "arrogant powers" are exploiting structural weaknesses of the world's human rights centers

to kill thousands of innocent people in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Palestine.

Double-standard policies have dominated human rights organizations across the globe, it further said, stressing that the so-called advocates of human rights are ignoring basic international human rights.

Human Rights Day commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.