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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Who Is Behind Yemen Crisis?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The United Nations says it is the Saudis and their allies. The UN is warning that the Saudi-led, U.S.-backed war on Yemen and its economic consequences are driving the largest food security emergency in the world.

According to UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, over 17 million people are currently food insecure, of whom 6.8 million are severely food insecure and require immediate food assistance, and two million acutely malnourished children. The Yemeni population amounts to 27.4 million inhabitants.

As is, the Saudi-led, U.S.-backed air strikes and fighting continue to inflict heavy casualties, damage public and private infrastructure, and impede delivery of humanitarian assistance. The warmongers have created a vast crisis in which millions of people face tremendous threats to their safety and well-being, and the most vulnerable struggle to survive. Millions have been displaced, roughly 73 percent are living with host families, and 20 percent in collective centers or spontaneous settlements. A substantial numbers of returnees live in damaged houses, unable to afford repairs and face serious protection risks.

A reminder that the United Nations should demand the Saudis halt this dirty campaign, lift the illegal blockade, and pull back from all the territory they have occupied since the war began. The UN should impose sanctions on Riyadh if they refuse to do that. The world organization should also stop endorsing Saudi Arabia's vicious position, which is bad for regional peace and security. This policy reversal could have huge effect on the ground in Yemen, because the international bullies are indifferent to civilian life and do not consider themselves subject to UN requirements.

It is time for the world organization to do its job, because Saudi Arabia is violating international law, and the United States is acting in a perceived self-interest that is distorted and unethical. The world organization must stand for justice and peace. That is what it was created for. It won't be able to serve that purpose until it stops endorsing the Saudi position.

One more point: By its own admission, Riyadh is depending upon so-called southern fighters - another term for ISIL and Al-Qaeda militants - for ground operations, as Saudi forces have repeatedly failed to gain their desired objectives. In desperation, they have given ISIL the control of some southern territories - even though the terrorist network has committed mass atrocities and declared war against the kingdom itself.

All this and more reveals the fact that the desperate war on Yemen is an impossible war to win. Despite announced victories, the warmongers have reached a dead end. The Saudis need ISIL and Al-Qaeda to stay the course, as a long war risks damaging their leadership and unleashing domestic dissidence. What's more, they cannot divide Yemen or turn it into a strife-torn failing state, all the more so, because in their desperation to avoid another defeat after Syria, not only are they willingly supporting hated terrorists and extremists, but also drawing reluctant allies into the war zone.

Taken together, the future looks bleak for the House of Saud. Very few intelligent people today would accept that the unholy alliance of Saudi Arabia possesses any basic goodness at all. The complexity of the situation and multiplicity of actors, coupled with the division among so-called coalition members and their terror proxies, have undoubtedly exhausted the Saudis' ability to leave the Yemeni quagmire in one piece. They have lost the war. What makes this so certain is that it exists at a time when the battle-hardened people of Yemen remain united in facing Saudi aggression and terror.

IRGC Hailed as 'Strategic Asset' on Anniversary



TEHRAN (Dispatches) – General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday hailed the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a “strategic asset” and a “defense shield” against hegemonic powers and Zionists.

“The IRGC, with its unique capabilities and courageous

defense record, has proved to be a strategic asset not only for Iran, but for the Islamic resistance movement in the region,” it said in a statement on the anniversary of the IRGC establishment.

The statement touched on the enemies' propaganda campaign against the IRGC because they see the force as a “major barrier to their anti-Iranian and anti-revolutionary policies and strategies.”

It also praised the IRGC for its leading role in supporting the Islamic resistance movement, particularly in the fight against terrorist Takfiri groups in Iraq and Syria.

FM Zarif Wraps Up 3-Nation Tour: No Limit to Expansion of Central Asia Ties

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif visited Kyrgyzstan Wednesday on the last leg of his Central Asia tour for talks with the country's senior officials about ways of broadening bilateral relations in various areas.

Zarif headed a 20-member delegation of businessmen and company representatives from Iranian public and private sectors during the three-nation tour, which also took him to Turkmenistan and Georgia.

The first two visits featured three political and economic meetings.

The top Iranian diplomat arrived late Tuesday in Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek, where he attended a joint economic meeting with Iranian and Kyrgyz businessmen in attendance.

Zarif said at the meeting that after President Hassan Rouhani's “very successful” trip to Kyrgyzstan last December, which witnessed the signing of several documents between the two nations, “the ground is well prepared for the expansion of bilateral cooperation.”

“We know no limit to the enhancement of ties with Kyrgyzstan, and we are ready for bolstering our cooperation in all spheres,” he added.

The Iranian foreign minister also expressed hope that agreements

between the Central Banks of Iran and Kyrgyzstan would contribute to their private sector activities.

Speaking on a different note, he said, “While the threat of extremism and terror menaces the region and the world, cooperation, cultural promotion and tolerance are among the most important methods of confronting” the scourges.

On Wednesday morning, Zarif met with his Kyrgyz counterpart, Erlan Abdyldaev, to explore ways of promoting “comprehensive cooperation” particularly in the economic sector.

The senior Iranian official later sat down for talks with Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev.

During the talks, the Kyrgyz head of state called for closer economic relations between Tehran and Bishkek, saying efforts must be made to remove the obstacles to bilateral trade.

Zarif, in turn, stressed the need for more cooperation in the area of economy as well as joint efforts against terrorism and extremism.

The tour takes place at the invitation of the respective countries' top diplomats on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the republics' independence from the Soviet Union.

The Holy Qur'an

Allah has promised to the believing men and the believing women gardens, beneath which rivers flow, to abide in them, and goodly dwellings in gardens of perpetual abode; and best of all is Allah's goodly pleasure; that is the grand achievement.

The Holy Qur'an (9.72)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:03
Evening (Maghreb)	20:00
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	04:55
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	06:23

The IRGC was established after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran to defend the country against foreign threats and to safeguard the values and accomplishments of the revolution.

According to Article 150 of the Constitution, “the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, organized in the early days of the triumph of the Revolution (1979), is to be maintained so that it may continue in its role of guarding the Revolution and its achievements.”

“The scope of the duties of this Corps, and its areas of responsibility, in relation to the duties and areas of responsibility of the other Armed Forces, are to be determined by law with emphasis on brotherly cooperation and harmony among them,” it says.

Press Digest

Economic Demands

KAYHAN: President Rouhani admits that the main concern for people is the economy. He says his campaign rivals are also saying the same thing. However, he goes on to maintain that life is not just about economy. No one could possibly stop the flow of information technology. We must prepare ourselves for today's modern world. We must however use the technology appropriately. It is impossible to say no to the new technology.

Political Tranquility

RESALAT: Ayatollah Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi has signed up for the presidential race with the slogan of restoring tranquility for people. Good governance needs political tranquility. This way we can make all the correct decisions. This is the same thing that our Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has on several occasions laid emphasis on. The revolutionary forces have always worked round the clock to maintain law and order as well as tranquility at times of crisis.

Broken Promises

SIASAT ROOZ: When looking back, President Rouhani sees a pile of promises that he is yet to deliver on. He promised to deliver them over the course of his presidency but he failed. Even those that he did failed to bring any good to ordinary people. This is while he and his team continue to brag about their achievements. When they go to sleep they know better than anyone else that this is all talk and no action.

Unemployment Rate

VATAN EMROOZ: Lawmaker Kazem Jalali says last year there were 2.7 million people out of job. Add to this the 4.8 million part-time workers and the sum is a staggering 7 million people out of work. This is while presidential advisor Masoud Nili claims the government has created 1.2 million new jobs each and every year. This is something that even some of President Rouhani's close associates dispute outright.

Iranians Challenge Trump Travel Ban at Court

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Leaders of Iranian organizations in the U.S. testified in federal court Tuesday about the negative effects that President Trump's executive order on travel and refugees has had on their community, even as enforcement of the order has been barred.

The case is one of dozens that have sought to challenge the legality

of the executive order, but Tuesday's hearing before U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan in Washington, D.C. represents the first time witnesses have provided in-person testimony challenging the executive order.

Federal court rulings out of Hawaii and Maryland have blocked portions

of Trump's executive order from currently being enforced. Attorneys

involved in the D.C. case say they are seeking an injunction that would take effect if either of those orders were overturned but also to compel the government to resume visa operations as they had run prior to the announcement of the first order on Jan 27.

“We want the government agencies to go back to doing the jobs they were

doing before,” said Jon M. Greenbaum, chief counsel for the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, ahead of Tuesday's hearing. “We have declarants who have had their visas approved for travel to the United States but never actually got the visas themselves. They are stuck outside of the United States.”

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