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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Rouhani Calls for Boosting Ties With Iraqi Kurds



President Hassan Rouhani, right, receives the Iraqi Kurdistan region's Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani in Tehran, Jan. 21, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday called for boosting relations with the Iraqi Kurdish region as part of a united Iraq after ties were strained over a secession vote in the area last year.

The call came during a visit by the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region's Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani, the first such high-level trip to Iran since last year's Kurdish secession vote which Iran strongly opposed.

The "referendum" on Sept. 25 angered Iraq's central government and neighbors Iran and Turkey, which have their own Kurdish minorities.

"President Rouhani stressed the historical and deep-rooted ties between the Islamic Republic of

Kurdish region. "We cannot tolerate that counter-revolutionary groups use Kurdish territory to assassinate our soldiers and citizens and return to the Kurdish region, and then take responsibility for these acts in official Kurdish media," IRNA quoted Shamkani as saying.

Barzani said: The "expansion of ties and cooperation between

Iran and the Kurds of Iraq, and said all efforts should be made to strengthen the close relations between the two nations of Iran and Iraq," the state news agency IRNA reported.

Barzani earlier met Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, who voiced concern over continued cross-border raids by terrorists from Iraq's

The Holy Qur'an

And most certainly We will settle you in the land after them; this is for him who fears standing in My presence and who fears My threat.

The Holy Qur'an (14.14)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:10
Evening (Maghreb)	17:40
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:43
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:10

Iran and the Kurdistan region will not be affected by its opponents' efforts, and we shall use all our power to prevent security threats against Iran," IRNA added.

He said Iran's support for the Iraqi Kurdistan at the height of Daesh's terror campaign was crucial.

Barzani also said the Iraqi Kurds favor a unified country where all sides should remain committed to the constitution and pursue their demands through legal channels.

Several armed terrorist groups operate from bases in Iraq's remote mountainous north and launch sporadic raids into Iran.

Past, Present and Future Roles of Iran and the Iranians in Liberation of Holy Qods

By: S. Nawabzadeh

The letter of Ismail Haniyeh, Head of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in appreciation of the Iranian people's unflinching support for the cherished goal of the liberation of Islam's former qibla, has once again brought into sharper focus, Iran's age-old connection to Holy Qods.

These ties, without the least doubt, are rooted in antiquity, to the days of Prophet Abraham (AS), when he was forced to migrate from Mesopotamia to Canaan (Palestine), and have always emphasized the support of Iran and the Iranians for the righteous cause and for the virtuous servants of God – to the horror of tyrants, oppressors, deviationists, and seditionists.

The first recorded instance of such ties vividly remains in the Books of the Old Testament, despite their being tampered with, and mentions how, after ending the tyrannical Babylonian empire, the Persian conqueror, Cyrus the Great, freed from Mesopotamian captivity the monotheists Israelites, who had not yet deviated from the laws of Prophet Moses (AS), allowing them to return to Holy Qods in dignity.

Of course, those wishing to remain in what are now Iraq and Iran, were permitted to stay, as the Achaemenian Empire rapidly expanded to include in its folds Palestine and the whole of Levant, as well as Anatolia and Egypt.

This is the reason the shrines of several Prophets of God, descended from Prophet Yaquob (Jacob, who was also called Israel), such as Daniel in Shush, Habakkuk in Tuyserkhan, Haggai in Hamedan, and Sha'ya in Isfahan (to name a few), dot Iran.

Here it should be clarified that since the ancient Israelites were monotheists and consequently Muslims (those submitting to none but God Almighty and His laws), these are not Jewish but Islamic shrines revered by the Muslims of Iran.

Then there is mention in the Gospel of Saint Mathew of the visit of the Three Magi or Wise Men of Iran to Holy Qods (Jerusalem) with gifts for the infant Prophet Jesus (AS) on learning of his birth – yet another instance of the Iranians' support for the righteous, and not for the Jews, the Israelis, and the Zionists.

Fast forward to the Fatimid Dynasty of Egypt-Syria-North Africa (921-1171 AD), especially the era of the grand viziers of Iranian origin in Cairo, Badr Jamali and his son Afzal Shahenshah – after skipping the brief Sassanid conquest of Palestine, the arrival in Medina of Salman the Persian in quest of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), and the settling of many Iranian Muslims in and around Holy Qods.

Histories pertaining to the Crusader invasion of Palestine bear testimony to the presence of thousands of Iranian soldiers in the Fatimid armies during the Battles of Acre and Holy Qods. Of the 70,000 men, women, and children slaughtered by the European Crusaders in Holy Qods in 1099, many were Iranians.

In 1187, when the Kurdish sultan, Salah od-din Ayyoubi, liberated Holy Qods from 88 years of Crusader occupation to end the illegal Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, his army included a specialized brigade of sappers from Khorasan to dig tunnels and plant explosives under the walls of the city.

Again in 1244 when the Mamluk dynasty of Egypt liberated Holy Qods for the final time from Crusader occupation, the Khwarezmian troops hailing from the northern part of ancient Iran (now in Central Asia) led the armies.

Fast forward to the 20th century and the opposition of Iranian ulema and people to the British plot to illegally settle non-Israelite East European Jews in Palestine for creating the spurious entity called Israel – as per the Balfour Declaration.

At a time, when Iran had been virtually turned into a British colony under Reza Khan, and then a virtual American state under his son, Mohammad Reza, the Iranians continued to raise their voices of protests to the relationship between the Pahlavi regime and Israel.

In the 1960, in one of his speeches, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), called for the weeding out of the cancerous tumour called Israel.

Thus, it was but natural for Iran, following the resounding triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 to designate the Last Friday of the Fasting Month of Ramadhan as International Qods Day in order to mobilize world Muslims for the liberation of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the whole of Palestine.

The developments of the past forty years and the influence of Iran that enabled the Palestinian Muslims to form Hamas and Islamic Jihad for the liberation of every inch of their homeland, need not be repeated here.

Neither is the intention to go into details of Ismail Haniyeh's letter to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution that singles out Arab traitors to the cause of Holy Qods and Palestine and their seditious moves to fan Sunni-Shi'a sectarian flames, as well as his firm conviction of defeating with Iran's help, the conspiracy of today's tyrant, Donald Trump.

It would also be repetitive to point out to Ayatollah Khamenei's dynamically democratic solution for a single and one united government for the whole of Palestine, on the basis of a nationwide referendum.

The undeniable fact is, whether the Israelis, the Arabs, the Americans and the Europeans like it or not, despite their vain attempts to put seemingly nationalist but actually weird and outlandish slogans in the mouths of traitors, thugs and terrorists (such as, Leave Gaza and Lebanon, we sacrifice our lives for Iran), Islamic texts contain prophecies of the victorious march of the Iranians towards Holy Qods in the face of heavy odds, in the end times.

So Mr. Trump & Company, give up your quixotic plans to roll back Iran's influence from the Levant and its Mediterranean coast, before it is too late to save yourselves from the impending doom.

Army Begins Massive Military Drill

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The Iranian army will launch a large-scale military drill in the southern coasts and the Sea of Oman on Monday, deputy chief of the army for coordination Admiral

Habibollah Sayyari said.

The navy, the ground force, the air force and the air defense unit will participate in the exercises code-named Muhammad Rasulullah-5 which will cover a vast area, including the entire coasts of Makran and the Sea of Oman.

The aim of the drills is to promote the capabilities of the armed forces and convey the message of peace and friendship to other regional countries,

Sayyari said.

The army's ground forces staged Muhammad Rasulullah-4 drills in an area of more than 220,000 square km southeast of Iran in Dec. 2016.

The Iranian armed forces hold routine military drills throughout the year to maintain the country's combat readiness in the face of external threats.

Iran says its defense power is driven by deterrence and poses no threat to any other country.

Tillerson in Europe to Seek Tougher Iran Measures

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was due to arrive in London later Sunday on the first leg of a weeklong trip to Europe that will also take him to Paris, Warsaw, and the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, has said that Iran would dominate Tillerson's meetings with U.S. allies.

The trip comes amid behind-the-scenes negotiations over the fate of the landmark nuclear agreement with Iran.

"As you know, we really emphasize close coordination with the British in particular and the French in our efforts to close the gaps in (the agreement) and in (the) next steps on how we

curtail Iranian malign influence in the region," a State Department official told reporters. "So I think that'll be a very high priority in his conversations."

Earlier this month, U.S. President Donald Trump said that he wanted to work with European allies and Congress to fix what he called "disastrous flaws" in the 2015 Iran deal signed under his predecessor, Barack Obama.

Trump warned that Washington would withdraw from the deal if it is not strengthened within four months.

In London, Tillerson was set to meet with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and national security adviser Mark Sedwill to discuss cooperation on Iran, Syria, Libya, North Korea, and Ukraine.

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IRGC Ready to Help Gov't on Cloud-Seeding

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Aerospace Force has voiced readiness to help Iran's Energy Ministry carry out cloud-seeding operations as part of contingency plans to fight drought.

Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said the IRGC Aerospace Force is at the service of the Iranian nation and will mobilize all its means to help the country cope with the fallout from a lingering drought.

Low rainfall this year on the back of a dry spell which has dragged on for years has prompted Iranian officials

to seriously consider cloud seeding.

Cloud seeding originated in the U.S. in the 1940s. The method generally used in the winter involves ground-based generators set at high elevations that are literally fired up to release plumes containing silver iodide crystals into storm clouds. When water vapor or droplets attach to the silver iodide crystal, latent heat is also released, and it increases cloud size and the duration of storms.

Global warming has forced many arid and semi-arid areas around the world, including Iran, to suffer from drought.

Minister: Armed Forces to Sell Off Business Holdings

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the other branches of the nation's armed forces have been instructed to sell

off business holdings and commercial assets "irrelevant" to their main function, the country's defense minister said in a newspaper interview.

Brigadier General Amir Hatami said Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei had instructed armed forces to either divest

economic holdings on the country's capital market or sell them to the private sector.

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