

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## Spokesman: A Powerful Iran Good for Region



An Iranian missile rises into the sky after being launched from an undisclosed site.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran has said the United States cannot comment on the country's defense power as it sends "hundreds of billions of dollars worth of weapons to the region".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi defended Iran's legitimate and undeniable right to protect its own national interests and securities.

"With the experience of the eight-year imposed war, Iran will never wait for permission from any country to protect its national security and defend the nation," referring to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

The U.S. supported Iraqi forces

in the war, in which former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein failed to annex Iranian territory.

Qasemi also said a powerful Iran was good for the region, as the country promotes peace and security.

"A powerful Iran is very important not only for the great Iranian nation, but also for peace, stability and security in the region. Undoubtedly, Iran's ability to foil the conspiracies of global and regional enemies will prevent them from taking any unwise action," he added.

Qasemi said the U.S. and the occupying regime of Israel have come to understand that Iran will not accept being bullied without a

response.

"If they take any unwise action, they will receive a decisive response from Iran," he said.

He said the Iranian nation has gained invaluable experiences and incurred high costs over the past four decades.

"Iran would never forget the bitter experience of being hit by missiles during the imposed war and the massacre of defenseless people," he stated.

"The experience of the past 40 years has shown that the enemies of Iran's Revolution, establishment and nation have done their best to weaken the Islamic Republic's defense and security capabilities

## Philippines, Iran Call for Promoting Relations

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif here on Sunday discussed issues of mutual interest with Jose de Venecia, the special envoy of the president of the Philippines.

The two sides underlined reinforcement and promotion of bilateral ties between Tehran and Manila, particularly in the fields of economy, energy, and petrochemicals.

De Venecia, who is also the chairman of International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), also conferred with Zarif on the development of cooperation between Asian political parties.

Diplomatic relations between Tehran and Manila started on January 22, 1964.

As of February 2016, Iran has been one of the six nations with which the Philippines has a Joint Economic Commission at a ministerial level.

There is a community of thousands of Iranians in the Philippines including many international students drawn by the country's low-cost English education.

On the other hand, many Filipino maritime laborers are working in Iran, particularly in the Persian Gulf island of Kish.

The two sides have agreed to ensure better labor conditions for these workers. Manila has also expressed its preparedness to open a consulate in Kish considering the huge number of its nationals working in the island.

## Four Indian Fishing Boats Seized in Arvand

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian naval guards have seized four Indian fishing vessels for "trespassing on the country's territorial waters" in the Arvand waterway.

Arvand is a 200 km long river

at the confluence of the Euphrates and the Tigris near Basra port city of Iraq. The southern end of the river constitutes the border between Iraq and Iran.

According to Press TV, Colonel Muhammad-Ali Musivand,

commander of Abadan Navy Base, said the Indian vessels were seized on Saturday morning during a patrol by Iranian naval forces and 16 crew members were arrested.

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The Holy Qur'an

If one amongst the Pagans ask thee for asylum, grant it to him, so that he may hear the word of Allah. And then escort him to where he can be secure. That is because they are men without knowledge.

The Holy Qur'an (9:6)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:18
Evening (Maghreb)	17:54
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:36
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:00

and have always sought to create an unequal military balance against the country."

Qasemi said, "The Iranian people are well aware how the superpowers that are against Iran's missile defense program closed their eyes on the airstrikes and the indiscriminate killing of innocent people during the imposed war by providing modern warplanes and reinforcing the Iraqi army's missile power to become an accomplice to the crimes of this regime."

Stressing the deterrent nature of Iran's missile program, he went on to say that the leaders of aggressive regimes, including the United States and the Zionist regime, have understood that a strong and independent Iran would never accept their domination and bullying.

"If they take any unwise action, they will receive a decisive response from Iran," Qasemi said.

## Iran Seeks Closer Afghan Cooperation on Terror Fight

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has warned that the U.S. is relocating Daesh terrorists to Afghanistan to justify its presence there, calling for closer cooperation between Tehran and Kabul to fight terror.

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami held phone talks with his Afghan opposite number Major General Tariq Shah Bahrami to discuss developments in the Central Asian country, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Hatami said it was Washington that created Daesh in order to manage it in Syria and Iraq. However, the U.S. tried to save the terrorists from the maelstroms of Iraq and Syria after they were defeated in the two countries, and transfer them to Afghanistan, he added.

Hatami further said the U.S. is pursuing the policy of increasing

its troop numbers in Afghanistan.

"The Americans have proven that they are enemies of Muslims, and the declaration of holy Quds as the capital of the Zionist regime of Israel showed the world another layer of the United States' hypocritical face and animosity toward Muslims," said the top general.

He said only through the positive approach of the regional countries will it be possible to establish security in Afghanistan.

"In this path, the common potential of all regional countries should be utilized to counter terrorism and establish tranquility in Afghanistan," said General Hatami.

He also offered condolences to the Afghan people, government and armed forces over the numerous deadly terrorist attacks which hit the country recently.

The Afghan defense minister said more than 20 terror groups are operating in Afghanistan, and added regional security will be jeopardized if the terrorists are left to their own devices.

He highlighted that Iran and Afghanistan as well as other regional countries should not ignore their common enemy, and should keep working together closely in fighting terrorism

## World Muslims Begin Questioning Saudi Control of House of God

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

What we have been saying for several decades and what is evident for all conscious Muslims, became more clear a couple of days ago, and that too of all places in Indonesia, where the organizers of a large Muslim youth conference said: Saudi Arabia has politicized the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

It is an interesting development in the world's most populous Muslim country, which sends the most number of pilgrims to the Land of Revelation every year.

Last year over 220,000 Indonesians performed the Hajj, which is obligatory once in a lifetime for an adult Muslim, whether male or female, on condition of being in sound physical health and having the financial means to undertake the journey, provided the expenses do not negatively affect the pilgrim's family.

The turn of events in Indonesia means the petro-dollars of the Aal-e Saud clan that for the past several decades had zipped up the lips of the governments, the media, and influential Muslim leaders, concerning the illegitimate Wahhabi control of Islam's two holiest cities, Mecca and Medina, have been ripped apart.

Propaganda can no longer silence the conscientious. This was the message of the recent gathering of Muslim youths in Indonesia, where HMI, which in Malay language means 'Muslim Students Association', held a nationwide conference at the University of Depok with the theme "Islamic Holy Places for All the Ummah".

Other organizers participating in the confab pointed out that Saudi Arabia has let political rows with several countries, such as Qatar, Syria, Iran and Yemen, among others, influence its Hajj regulations.

Representatives of Garda Suci Merah Putih (GSMP), another Indonesian youth organization, noted that Saudi Arabia has violated the spirit of the Hajj pilgrimage.

Its Secretary-General Mujtahid Hasheem said in clear unambiguous words: "Only God has the right to forbid anyone to go on Hajj, not Saudi Arabia."

He alluded to the example of Syrian pilgrims, who must go through a committee that is controlled by Saudi-backed opposition groups to obtain visas for the Hajj and Umrah.

This means the millions of Sunni Muslims and others who back the legal government of President Bashar al-Assad and are confronting the Takfiri terrorists, have no hopes for performing the Hajj.

In Yemen also, pointed out Hasheem, Riyadh has taken similar measures to politicize the Hajj based on Saudi Arabia's alliances with the warring groups.

Protests against the Saudi stranglehold on the pilgrimage to the House of God also occurred in pro-Riyadh Pakistan as well as in India which though a non-Muslim country has the world's highest population of Muslims – more than Indonesia's.

Shuja'at Ali, General Secretary of the Muslim Student Organization of India, charged Saudi Arabia with destroying prominent religious sites, such as the house in Mecca in which Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was born, and the sacred Jannat al-Baqie Cemetery in Medina, which contains the resting places of the Prophet's uncle, aunts, wives, senior companions, ulema, and above all four of the 12 Infallible Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt – Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS), Imam Muhammad al-Baqer (AS), and Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS).

According to Shuja'at Ali, 95 percent of Mecca's famous Islamic landmarks have been destroyed over the past two decades to make way for American companies like McDonald's, Starbucks, and so on.

These public protests could be called positive signs of awakening in the Muslim World, which after initial opposition to the blood-soaked Saudi seizure of Hijaz in 1925 and the desecration and destruction of its Islamic sites, had been lulled into sleep by the millions of riyals that Riyadh pours into the coffers of politicians, newspapers, and magazines, to keep away attention of the Muslim masses from the Wahhabi usurpation of the Land of Revelation, which is no different from the Zionist usurpation of Palestine and Islam's former qibla Bayt al-Moqaddas.

Both Israel and Saudi Arabia are British implants in the heart of the Muslim world. But while the Ummah's attention is focused on the atrocities of the Zionists in Palestine, the Wahhabi cult, which masquerades as Muslim, plays the Sunni-Shi'a card to stir up sectarian sedition and justify its periodic massacres of the Shi'a Muslims in Arabia and other places.

Of late, its open indulgence in state terrorism and creation of Takfiri terrorists in several Muslim countries in order to destabilize them in the interests of the US and the Zionists has jolted the conscience of world Muslims.

World Muslims believe, especially after the periodic massacre of pilgrims, mostly Iranians, by Saudi Arabia, that it is time to set up an international Islamic body to take control of not just the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, but all of Hijaz including the port city of Jeddah and the resort of Ta'ef for proper and unbiased management of the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages, and all affairs related to the Guests of God.