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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Buffer Zone in Syria? Keep Dreaming

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The United States claims it has deployed a number of special forces troops and armored vehicles along the border between Kurdish-held northeast Syria and Turkey, with most of the occupying troops sent to the area around Darbasiya, which has been raging since Turkey's airstrikes were carried out.

The justification is that the occupying troops are there "monitoring the situation," though Syrian Kurds say that in practice the U.S. deployment is an attempt to establish a "buffer" to try to limit fighting between the two sides, which has been raging since Turkey's airstrikes were carried out.

This isn't the first time the U.S. has deployed troops in Syria specifically to create a buffer zone (read no-fly zone) on the pretext of helping Syrian refugees or preempting a Turkish attack. The idea to create a buffer zone, a no-fly zone, or whatever they call it, is designed to create a safe haven for Qaeda-allied "moderate" terrorist groups fighting the Syrian government and its Iranian-Russian-Hezbollah allies.

They know they are losing the war and they want to make sure their "moderate" goons will have a breather to resupply. That explains why the U.S. also insists on selecting and sending various terrorist groups to the peace talks; it wants to make sure it gets in the political process what it couldn't get on the battlefield i.e., regime change and/or having a say in Syria's future.

The U.S. has at the same time intensified the strategy of upping its military footprint there, with full backing from regional vassals. These puppet regimes actively do the bidding of Western interests and are compensated in exchange for creating failed states and eliminating rivals. As appalling as it may be, this is what it is, even as they vie for different political outcomes and/or silly "buffer" zones.

But this has all changed in recent months. The war on Syria is a war they can't win. The counter-terror allied forces of Iran, Syria, Russia and Hezbollah are advancing on all fronts, they have liberated Aleppo and the surrounding regions, and for the first time, ISIL and Al-Qaeda goons no longer seem invincible. On the other hand, the alliance doesn't want what Washington does offer in the peace process: Endless war, buffer zones, colonial carve-ups, undoing old borders, and regional provisions for military and energy domination.

For sure, the alliance members have every intention to rally public will in the current environment as well: If anyone is to replace President Bashar Assad, it will have to be the people of Syria themselves, not the War Party, and certainly not its expendable partners in crime and terror proxies. Mind you, this also has to happen after the real war on terror is on.

One final point: The Zionist regime of Israel wants the war of attrition in Syria to continue. This way it can force the Palestinians and other Arab civilians to give in, accept Israeli occupation, and stop supporting Hezbollah in any form, whether armed or unarmed, or busy fighting U.S.-Saudi terror proxies in Syria.

Another reality is that Israel is working very hard to prevent any peace deal in Syria. To this end, it continues to pour petrol on the fires in the war-torn country by supporting the terrorist groups in the Golan Heights - even including Al-Qaeda and ISIL. This helps kill the peace process, prolong the war, and turn away the guns from Israel. The chaos of the war also provides a cover which helps Israel to assassinate its enemies in Syria and Lebanon, all while killing more Palestinians and stealing their lands with great impunity and no international backlash at the United Nations.

All this and more is the reason why the world community should say no to America's colonial buffers in Syria. If history of Palestine and the Gaza wars is any indication, buffer zones are only designed to be used as launching pads for future wars of deceit and aggression, land grabs, and state-sponsored terrorism and more.

Why Is EU Delegation in Tehran?



EU Commissioner Miguel Arias-Canete (3rd R) is seen during talks with Iranian officials in Tehran, April 29, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Despite U.S. President Donald Trump's tough talk on Iran, the EU is courting Tehran to make Iranians preparing to vote in a May 19 presidential poll believe that a nuclear deal is paying off, EU diplomats say.

Europe's energy commissioner is leading more than 50 European firms in a business forum in Tehran over the weekend - the latest sally to help knit new trade ties in the 16 months since Iran curbed its nuclear program in exchange for relief from sanctions.

States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia - EU nations bore the brunt of the oil embargo on Iran and stand to gain the most from a thaw they view as a victory for European diplomacy, according to Reuters.

Meeting with Iran's atomic chief Ali Akbar Salehi, Commissioner Miguel Arias-Canete echoed the EU's mantra that it is "fully committed" to the 2015 deal and expects the same from all other parties.

But the bloc's leverage remains limited - particularly if it is not able to shield European firms from the risk of remaining U.S. sanctions and encourage big banks to reverse over a decade of Iran's exclusion from the international financial system.

The latter was a theme of another big conference in Tehran on Saturday attended by Germany and Iran's central banks.

Some Western companies have returned - planemakers Airbus and Boeing and carmakers Peugeot-

Citroen and Renault - but many more have hung back, fearing Trump will tighten the screws on an already complex set of rules for engaging with Iran.

The pace and scale of Western investment is at the heart of a challenge by rivals of President Hassan Rouhani, who is seeking a re-election in May.

Rouhani's critics say the 2015

nuclear accord has not yielded the benefits he promised.

EU diplomats voiced concern that a more confrontational stance by the Trump administration could empower Rouhani's rivals ahead of the elections - although there is no sign the U.S. intends to walk away from the deal, Reuters said.

However, even as Tehran and Washington traded barbs over the deal last week, the State Department said Iran was complying with the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - the first such technical notification since Trump took office in January.

(Continued on Page 7)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:01
Evening (Maghreb)	20:10
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:37
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:11

The Holy Qur'an
So go about in the land
for four months and
know that you cannot
weaken Allah and that
Allah will bring disgrace
to the unbelievers.
The Holy Qur'an (9.2)

Iran to Regional Arab States: Let's Make Persian Gulf Sea of Friendship

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif on Sunday called on Persian Gulf countries to cooperate on countering common threats and help turn the waters into the "sea of friendship".

In an article on the occasion of the National Day of Persian Gulf, Zarif reaffirmed Iran's belief that regional countries are capable of running the regional affairs by themselves.

"The regional countries are capable of upholding their interests in a collective cooperation and protect themselves against threats," he said.

Zarif highlighted the need for

concerted efforts by the regional countries to develop mechanisms for dialogue, fight common threats, reject foreign interference, ensure regional security, and guarantee free shipping.

Regional countries, he said, should settle their differences in a peaceful manner, based on respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and refrain from meddling in their internal affairs.

They should also recognize international borders not subject to change, and renounce use of force and coercion, while work toward human and economic development of the region.

U.S. Cannot Influence Iran Elections: Minister

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hussein Dehqan says the United States is under an illusion if it assumes that it can influence the outcome of the forthcoming presidential election in Iran.

Speaking in an interview with RT Arabi, Dehqan stressed that the Islamic Republic pursues a firmly-established and principled approach

toward the U.S.

"If the Americans think that they can influence Iran's election, they are completely deluded because the Iranian nation is a wise nation and knows its enemies and acts contrary to the enemy's demand," he said.

Dehqan said the U.S. and Britain as well as the various media outlets seek to support one political camp against the other

in Iran's election.

"We are telling them that that is not how things are and our nation makes decisions based on the conditions specific to that time," the minister said, adding, "That's why they do not look to the U.S. or UK in elections."

Dehqan further emphasized that the Iranian people are fully aware that the West offers no

"breakthrough" to them.

"The Iranians are struggling for the realization of their own dignity. This issue has been proven over the past thirty or more years that the Iranian nation is moving along a clear path for the materialization of its goals and will certainly view issues according to their own special conditions and never forget the main objective."

Call for Change

KAYHAN: Presidential candidates Rouhani and Jahangiri are no longer willing to give campaign promises. Over the past four years they demonstrated that they cannot fix the economy. They preferred to sit with the rich at the expense of the poor. No doubt those who smuggle into the country goods worth 25 billion dollars are easily linked to the main corridors of executive power. Billions of dollars cannot go missing or turned into investment assets at banks without some executive puppeteers behind the scene. This sorry state of affairs has to change. No doubt about it. Things should turn for the better and to the benefit of ordinary citizens.

Fear Factor

RESALAT: The Rouhani administration officials claim that because of the nuclear deal with the West there is no longer a threat of war against Iran. They claim in their absence there will be war. What this means is that if outside powers are not invading us it's because of the administration of Rouhani and not Iran's military deterrence power and strategic position in the Persian Gulf. Far from it. It was Iran's deterrence power that brought the outside powers to the negotiating tables. Any doubters should ask Iran's nuclear negotiators, particularly those at the Foreign Ministry.

Banking Assets

VATAN EMROOZ: Almost 90 percent of all banking and financial assets are at the hands of just about 500 individuals. The government needs to keep in mind that this means they are the richest persons in the country. This is the same government that is against imposition of any income tax on the rich. To avoid any political or social backlash, the government insists that it will never tax their banking accounts. The government is making billions in revenues, not because it taxes the rich but because it is increasing the taxation on domestic producers.

Bad Situation

AFTAB: It is the belief of Rouhani's presidential rivals that some 30 percent of the youth are unemployed. They say voting is not for show. It is going to determine the fate of the country for the next four years. The situation is very bad and no one denies the fact that economy and public welfare are not in a good shape at all. Things have turned for the worse because of mismanagement of resources and mistakes made by the executive power. The situation needs a new generation of serious and dedicated managers. The situation could only improve if there is change in the main structure of the government.