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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Post-War Syria Must Decide Own Fate

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

That the allied forces of Iran, Syria and Russia are defeating all manners of foreign-backed terrorism and extremism is beyond dispute. That they also have the right and the opportunity to speak truth to power, to save the region from the scourge of war and terrorism, and to prevent and remove the threats to common peace and security is also beyond dispute.

What is in doubt, however, is that the United States pretends that the campaign by the allied forces has been ineffective, with adverse consequences for security, and would hinder any future peace talks on Syria's future. Washington also claims that the government of President Assad cannot have a say in the country's future after the war.

This comment is yet another acknowledgement by the War Party and its coalition of regime changers that their campaign to topple the Syrian government has failed and that they cannot expect to have any say in post-war Syria. So they are desperate to do what they couldn't do militarily i.e., regime change through dirty games in post-war Syria.

To this end, the U.S. appears to have provided a script for its allies and proxy forces to stay the course, as "they are essential for Syria's partition, and they have refused to declare that Assad should stay." This covert campaign, under the guise of fighting terrorism and supporting civilians, is now well underway despite its flagrant criminality and fraudulence. Thanks to the Western and Arab-sponsored terror networks, as well as Zionist-controlled Western media, the military and diplomatic aggression is being conducted with a grotesque image of humanitarianism and lawfulness.

U.S. generals say their new escalation of aerial bombardment, backed by Arab allies, is the beginning of a prolonged campaign that could continue intermittently for years. They also warn that airstrikes against their own creation, ISIL, will not have a serious impact on the terrorist group's overall operations – just like in Iraq.

These comments seem to suggest that the strikes are just about the U.S. administration going through the motions, with no real expectation and strategy. But they do have expectation, and certainly they do have strategy. They are doing what they can to add to Trump's call for more boots on the ground in the second phase of the war on Syria, which among other things, is clearly intended to expand U.S. military presence and occupation, train and arm new "moderate" terrorists, and ultimately push for political (emphasis here) regime change in post-war (divided) Damascus.

So the new escalation of the conflict is not what it seems. Even the political class in Washington has made clear that "the new bombing campaign is in no way aimed at helping the Syrian government to fight ISIL and/or gain ground." This could only mean one thing: Preventing the Syrian government reclaiming its own sovereign territory in terrorist-occupied areas after the war. It further anticipates that the next move would be the targeting of Syrian government at the United Nations to prevent them reclaim their authority in post-war Syria.

At this point, the hysteria in Washington over the illicit campaign seems a pitch or two higher than anything experienced in the ISIL years. Yet one clear sign of the farcical nature of this moment is Washington's inability to understand that they have lost the war and that they have done their parts to make the situation worse - and worse it will surely get worse as the Trump administration has assumed ownership of this doomed military-diplomatic adventure that is destined to bleed into many things with disastrous consequences not just for Syria but for the United States and the entire region.

In effect, the new war of choice has no UN resolution authorizing force; is not part of a NATO operation; lacks any specific U.S. congressional authorization; and enjoys no invitation of the host country to conduct military operations or political dialog with Syria's people. The only way to win is to not to play this dirty game.

President Rouhani: Takfiri Supporters Cannot Claim Anti-Terror Fight



President Hassan Rouhani, right, meets with Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Tehran, April 24, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says coalitions allegedly fighting terrorism are incapable of establishing stability and security in the region.

"Countries, which have supported terrorist groups such as Taliban, Al-Qaeda and Daesh with money and arms for many years and are still helping them, cannot claim to be combating terrorism," Rouhani said in a meeting with Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq here Monday.

He underlined the importance of enhancing security in the region and in the Muslim world and urged all countries to make efforts to uproot terrorism and restore lasting regional security.

Rouhani further stated that Iran and Pakistan have many common interests, urging the two countries to reinforce relations in all fields and increase the volume of their trade ties to five billion dollars per year.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has

always stood by the Pakistani people over the past 70 years and the expansion of ties and interactions between the two countries' officials and representatives can undoubtedly be effective in developing mutual relations," Rouhani added.

The president further expressed Iran's readiness to completely meet Pakistan's needs in the energy sector. Rouhani expressed hope that Islamabad would take necessary

steps to complete a pipeline project for the export of Iranian gas to the country, which has been stalled for years.

The project is meant to transfer natural gas from Iran's energy hub of Assaluyeh to Pakistan. Iran has already taken the pipeline to the border with its eastern neighbor. However, Pakistan has so far failed to construct its share of the pipeline due to what officials say has been a lack of funds.

The Iranian president also urged the establishment of land and rail transit routes between the two neighboring countries, saying the Iranian port city of Chabahar and Pakistan's southeastern port of

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Presidential Candidate Qalibaf:

No More of Current Administration

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Tehran mayor and presidential candidate Muhammad-Baqer Qalibaf says Iran needs no more of the same as he lambastes President Hassan Rouhani's political and economic policies.

Qalibaf is heading to the May 19 showdown, with Rouhani being seen as the front-runner against him and another serious contender Ebrahim Raeisi plus three other low-key candidates in the presidential race.

Qalibaf, who conceded the election to Rouhani last time in 2013, said on Monday that his goals and those of Raeisi were identical as he spelled out his election agenda.

"At this juncture, all of us have a common goal and are determined not to let this administration repeat itself," Qalibaf said in a meeting with a group of Principlist lawmakers in Tehran.

"More of this administration

would mean the revolutionary ideals and the country's economy being put in harm's way. This is the goal which I share with Mr. Raeisi," he added.

Qalibaf touched on some of the current administration's weaknesses, including its perceived poor record on the question of unemployment. "At present, creating five million new jobs is a requirement," he said.

He also cited the government's bulging budget as another area of liability, saying Rouhani had seen it grow thrice to more than \$86 billion over a period of three years.

"Is there any room left for growth under these circumstances," Qalibaf asked, according to the Fars news agency.

The current government is credited with keeping inflation in check after it shot up to 40% under Rouhani's predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. However, Rouhani has presided over an economic inertia which has exacerbated unemployment.

Critics point the finger at Rouhani's economic team, saying it is oblivious to a bloated financial sector which has been thriving for years at the expense of a cash-strapped production sector.

Rouhani started his tenure with a promise to put Iran's economic boat back on an even keel, but many analysts believe the administration is now rudderless more than any time.

On Sunday, national broadcaster IRIB went back on a decision not to

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Press Digest

Campaign Transparency

KAYHAN: Lack of transparency in presidential campaigns, not allowing people to know anything about the past and present works and programs of candidates, attempts by liberals and foreign media outlets to make sure there will be no live presidential debates on TV, all in all indicate that some currents are pretty much aware that they have no successful track record to show to voters. They have no programs to fix the existing problems; they also show that they don't have the guts to appear on live TV. It's an insult to people. It shows they are not committed to keeping the public in the know and giving them the right to choose.

Cold War

RESALAT: The Americans were out of harm's way during the Second World War. The fight was over dividing the world into statelets in order to plunder and divide their resources among Western powers. Even when Germany, Italy and Japan surrendered, the Americans nuked Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They wanted to show that they were serious about acting as the world police. That's why the Cold War occurred. They don't want to get involved in any major warfare because they are not prepared to pay the costs, particularly in a nuclear war.

Rouhani Again?

VATAN EMROOZ: Now that Trump is the new White House tenant, the main idea for Rouhani to fix the economy by burying the hatchet with the global village chief has gone down the drain for good. The situation is so terrible now that he says problems could never be resolved in 100 years, let alone in 100 days - as he had promised. It shows he and his team never had the intention to fix the existing problems in the first place. The conclusion has to be this: If Rouhani stays in power the sorry state of affairs will also stay the same. It might even get worse. The question is whether voters want to repeat the same experience or not.

Promises Undelivered

SIASAT ROOZ: Rouhani assumed presidency by giving lots of promises, such as fixing the economy, creating new jobs for the unemployed, and improving public welfare. This, he said could be the case if he signed the nuclear deal. He was under the illusion that things could turn for better if he could simply sign the deal with the West. It is election time and he is desperate to win public support and stay in the game. It is not that hard to show close his comments are to reality. What he has done in some cases still demands a closer look.

The Holy Qur'an

They who turn (to Allah), who serve (Him), who praise (Him), who fast, who bow down, who prostrate themselves, who enjoy what is good and forbid what is evil, and who keep the limits of Allah; and give good news to the believers.

The Holy Qur'an (9.112)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:02
Evening (Maghreb)	19:47
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:47
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:18

Salehi: New U.S. Sanctions Would Breach JCPOA

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The United States will violate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Tehran's nuclear program if it decides to prolong anti-Iran sanctions, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said on Tuesday.

Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump said that Iran was not complying with the "spirit" of the JCPOA and would soon receive a response from the United States.

He also directed a National

Security Council-led interagency review of whether the Iranian nuclear deal befits U.S. interests.

"The United States will be explicitly violating a nuclear deal with Iran and five other countries if it refuses to extend the suspension of American nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic on the due date," Salehi said.

He also noted that Iran had achieved significant progress in the nuclear industry.

"If the nuclear industry main-

tains its current pace of progress, the country's nuclear organization would attain budgetary self-reliance over the next five or six years," Salehi said.

In July 2015, Iran and the P5+1 countries — the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom plus Germany — signed an agreement ensuring the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program in return for the gradual lifting of sanctions against Tehran. The deal came into force

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