

## 'Daesh and Taliban Not the Same to Iran'

KABUL (Dispatches) – A senior adviser to Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif says Iran makes a distinction between Daesh and Taliban militants in Afghanistan. Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

Rasoul Mousavi said Taliban are an Afghan group "totally different to Daesh". He expressed hope that the group would give up its past ways and adopt a new approach to Afghan issues. Daesh recently declared a war on Taliban, describing the militants as "hypocrites and stooges of the unbelievers".

# Kayhan International



## Macron Assures Netanyahu About Iran

PARIS (Dispatches) – French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday assured visiting Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu of his "vigilance" regarding the 2015 nuclear accord reached by Western powers with Iran.

Netanyahu "expressed his concerns regarding the Iranian regime," Macron told reporters with Netanyahu at his side. "I assured him of our vigilance, in particular over the strict implementation of the accord... in all its provisions."

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By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

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## Iran Not After Building Regional Coalitions

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran said on Sunday it is not bound to set up coalitions against other countries but rather pursues a policy that would contribute to regional peace.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi touched on the worrisome conflicts in the region, saying they originate from big mistakes made by world powers decades ago, among them an unconditional U.S. support for Israel.

Asked whether Iran was open to the idea of forming a coalition with Iraq, Syria and Turkey to counter threats and solve crises in the region, Qassemi said what the Islamic Republic wants is to maintain peace and security.

"At the current juncture, the Islamic Republic, beside preserving its independence and creating necessary foundations for boosting and upgrading its position, has a positive outlook that would help security, peace and stability in the region," he said.

"We have to want peace and stability for all; therefore, there is no need to build such a coalition against others," Qassemi added.

For instance, "if our relations with Turkey or Azerbaijan are good, they won't be against any other country," the spokesman said.

"There is the difference of views and misunderstanding but in a coalition, we have to decide whom we are for or against because we can't have dual behavior."

### Iran, Egypt Likely to Step Up Ties

Qassemi touched on Iran's relations with other countries, including Egypt with which it has had no full diplomatic ties since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries, he said, is at the level of interests sections, but they have exchanges of views and their foreign ministers have been in contact whenever necessary.

"It is possible to increase relations; we have special respect for the Egyptian people and its civilization," Qassemi said.

The official said there are "complexities" in bilateral ties between Tehran and Cairo which they have not been able yet to solve in "a desirable fashion", calling on Egypt to have "a more realistic look" at Iran.

"With prudence, Egypt can

return to its past days and re-take its superior place in the Islamic world," Qassemi said, adding "Egypt is different from many newly-born countries in the region."

The official was apparently referring to Saudi Arabia's allies in the ongoing crisis with Qatar which is under a virtual blockade with the participation of Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain.

"Egypt is one of the most important countries in the region and the Islamic world which can play a more outstanding role in the Arab and Islamic world but unfortunately it has lost this standing to a great degree."

### No Communication Channel With Trump

Asked about contacts with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, Qassemi said Iran had discussions with Washington within the framework of the 2015 nuclear agreement and the Joint Commission monitoring the implementation of the deal.

"There is no communication channel between us and Mr. Trump's government at this time," he said.

## Rallies Across U.S. Urge Trump Impeachment



Protesters rally against U.S. President Donald Trump in Austin, Texas, July 15, 2017.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Protestors have demonstrated across the United States demanding the impeachment of President Donald Trump, with more events planned to voice anger at the current direction of the country.

RefuseFascism organized the protests, which took place in at least 15 locations, including Atlanta, New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Phoe-

nix, Washington, Boston, Portland and Los Angeles.

The group is calling for the end to the Trump-Pence administration, saying daily it escalates its fascist attacks on immigrants and Muslims, on healthcare and the poor, on Black and Brown people, on women, on the media, on the environment, on the right to protest, on the truth.

In Atlanta, protestors gathered at

the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and marched along Atlanta's Beltline. At Trump Tower in New York City, supporters and protestors held signs and chanted across the street from each other.

Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles, where Trump's star on the Walk of Fame has been vandalized several times over the last year, was also another protest site where at least 2

people were arrested.

The arrests resulted from a scuffle among two rival groups of demonstrators outside the busy Hollywood and Highland shopping complex.

One Trump supporter was arrested on suspicion of battery after he punched an anti-Trump protester, Los Angeles police Sgt. Neil Wank said.

"He shoved a bullhorn in my face," said the victim who identified himself only as Graywolf, 72. "I pushed him back and he decided that was enough provocation to hit me in the face. He was promptly arrested, and I will be filing charges on this guy."

This is the second time that Trump supporters and opponents have faced off along Hollywood Boulevard. In March, several activists on both sides held similar demonstrations.

"This is my second anti-Trump march that I've had in two weeks," said demonstrator Carrie Copsin. "We want him out of the White House. He does not represent the American people as far as I'm concerned."

The U.S. Constitution stipulates that a president can be impeached for committing "high crimes and misdemeanors," but a majority vote in the House, currently controlled by Republicans, is required to impeach a president.

## Zionist Bill Tightens Control of Al-Quds

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Israeli ministers gave initial approval Sunday to a bill aimed at making it more difficult for the Zionist regime to hand the Palestinians parts of Jerusalem Al-Quds as part of a future deal.

The bill, proposed by Shuli Moalem-Refaeli of the far-right Jewish Home, determines that any ceding of lands considered by the occupying regime of to be part of Jerusalem Al-Quds would necessitate a two-thirds majority vote in parliament.

Members of the ministerial committee for legislation approved the bill ahead of a series of discussions and votes in parliament. "The united Jerusalem (Al-Quds) bill we initiated just passed unanimously," Jewish Home leader Naftali Bennett wrote on his Facebook page.

Moalem-Refaeli said in the bill's explanatory notes that it sought to "fortify Jerusalem's unified status, safeguard its future and protect the security of its residents".

The Zionist regime occupied east Jerusalem Al-Quds and the West Bank in 1967. It later annexed east Jerusalem Al-Quds in a move never recognized by the international community.

It claims all of Al-Quds as its united capital, while the Palestinians see the eastern sector as the capital of their future state.

The issue is among the most contentious in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu's current coalition regime is seen as the most right-wing in the occupying entity's history.

On Sunday, Al-Aqsa mosque officials rejected new security measures put in place by the Zionist regime as it reopened the holy site following a deadly gun battle that prompted a two-day closure.

Muslim religious authorities, who administer the compound, refused to pray at the compound there after Israeli authorities installed metal detectors and additional close-circuit television cameras.

"The closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, the occupation in itself and the prevention of the call for prayers are all unfair and unjust and constitute a violation to the United Nations resolutions and the international agreements," Omar Kiswani, director of al-Aqsa mosque, told reporters outside the site.

"We hold the Israeli regime responsible for the changes they have made in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and taking its control away from us. We will stay outside the mosque until we get back the way it was taken from us."

The site was shut down during Friday prayers when five people were killed in a shootout - the first time the compound had been closed for prayers in 48 years.

"What happened does not justify this," Abu Mohammed, who works at a small medical clinic inside the compound, told Al Jazeera. "This is our mosque and we refuse to enter through any electronic gate, this can never be imposed on us."

Netanyahu announced the additional security (Continued on Page 7)

## Erdogan to EU: Turkey Has to Go Own Way

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- A defiant President Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday stepped up his attack on the European Union, saying Turkey had to go its own way and vowing to bring back the death penalty if parliament passes it.

Erdogan, who was at the opening ceremony for a memorial dedicated to the roughly 250 people who died during last year's failed coup, accused Brussels of "messaging about" with Turkey's decades-long bid to join the EU.

The speech, in front of the presidential palace in Ankara early on Sunday, wound up a marathon session of public appearances by Erdogan in both the capital and Istanbul to mark the anniversary of last year's failed coup.

"The stance of the European Union is clear to see ... 54 years have passed and they are still messaging us about," he said, citing what he said was Brussels' failure to keep promises on everything from a visa deal to aid for Syrian migrants.

"We will sort things out for ourselves, there's no other option."

Ties with Europe were strained after the coup, given the West's alarm about the scale of the government crackdown that followed. Some 150,000 people have been sacked or suspended from their jobs, and more than 50,000 detained on suspicion of links to the U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for the attempted

putsch.

He also said he would approve "without hesitation" the death penalty if parliament voted to bring it back, a move that would effectively end Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

"I don't look at what Hans and George say. I look at what Ahmet, Mehmet, Hasan, Huseyin, Ayse, Fatma and Hatice say," he said, to cheers from a flag-waving crowd.

Erdogan, the most popular and divisive politician in recent Turkish history, sees himself as the liberator of pious millions who were deprived for decades of their rights and welfare by Turkey's secular elite.

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said the EU remained committed to dialogue with Turkey and called on Ankara to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. He also warned against reinstating the death penalty.

"One year after the attempted coup, Europe's hand remains outstretched," Juncker wrote in Germany's Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

"If Turkey were to introduce the death penalty, the Turkish government would finally slam the door to EU membership."

Addressing a crowd of hundreds of thousands in Istanbul on Saturday evening, Erdogan promised violent retribution against Turkey's enemies, including FETO - his term (Continued on Page 7)