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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## Could MBS Be Trusted for His Feelers of Peace?

Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*The situation in war-torn Yemen is catastrophic. The Arab world's poorest country is in the grip of the epidemic of cholera which has afflicted half a million people, because of the total destruction of its infrastructure and the killing of scores of thousands of its citizens, by Saudi Arabia, the richest country of the Arab world.*

*Unfortunately, the UN, under pressure from the US, which is a party to the destructive so far two-and-a-half year long war, has remained ominously silent in the face of state terrorism by Riyadh on a massive scale.*

*Whenever the World Body says something on Yemen, it is clear that its special representative is not interested in persuading the aggressor parties to cease their war, but blames what he calls the 'Houthi rebels' for the conflict.*

*This is no formula for peace in a country where the lightly armed popular units of the Ansarallah Movement, bereft of boots and proper military gear, have shown remarkable courage and resilience in the face of the state-of-the-art armaments being hurled at them.*

*Schools, mosques, hospitals, bazaars, power-generation plants, water-works, and residential units – many of them historic and unique from the architectural point of view with registration on the UNESCO list of heritage of humanity – have been reduced to a rubble.*

*As a result epidemic diseases, especially meningitis and cholera have become widespread.*

*According to a report compiled jointly by Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Executive Director of World Food Programme (WFP) David Beasley, and Executive Director of UNICEF Anthony Lake: "This week Yemen reaches a grim milestone: half a million people are sick with suspected cholera this year, almost 2,000 of whom have died. It's the world's worst cholera outbreak in the midst of the world's largest humanitarian crisis.*

*"Conflict, hunger and disease are daily affairs in this war-battered country: two thirds of the population, that is, 17 million people, do not know where their next meal will come from; 5,000 more Yemenis fall ill with cholera or acute watery diarrhea every day."*

*Following this rare admission by UN agencies of the catastrophe, comes the report that the evil mind behind the war, Mohammad bin Salman (MBS), who in the absence of his father, Salman bin Abdul-Aziz (on a long vacation in Morocco), is now the virtual ruler of the Wahhabi entity that Britain created in 1932, is putting out feelers for ending his war.*

*In emails leaked by the western media, MBS in conversation with the Heir Apparent of UAE, Mohammad bin Zayed, is willing to work out a settlement.*

*Observers, however, are cautious regarding the so-called leaks and the supposed feelers. They regard it as Bedouin deceit to try to fool the free world and force an agreement on the Yemenis against their liking and to the benefit of the aggressors, since the terrible war that was unleashed on the assumption of battering the Ansarallah into submission, has failed.*

*The war has been catastrophic for the aggressors from all angles. It is not just the heavy cost of its continuation without any results and the tarnishing of the supposedly Islamic credentials of the Saudis, the Emiratis and their accomplices-in-crimes, but has exposed the cowardice and lack of military prowess of the richly-paid and well-equipped soldiers mustered by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.*

*Saudi Arabia cannot even defend from frequent Ansarallah incursions what it calls its southern provinces of Najran, Jizan, and Asir, which are actually occupied northern parts of Yemen, and where sentiments are on the rise against the minority Wahhabi cult ruling them. Moreover, the casualties of the war include members of the ruling families, making MBS and his bosom pal in the UAE, craftily think of outsourcing the war to the al-Qa'eda terrorists.*

*There is neither faith nor sincerity in the cliques ruling pro-US and pro-Zionist Arab states, as is clear by their deceitful hosting of Iraqi religious-political leader, Seyyed Moqtada as-Sadr, who, if he is not cautious and careful, could be used as a Trojan Horse to weaken Iraq and the Islamic Resistance Front in the region, including Yemen.*

*Thus, in view of these realities, Ansarallah ought to be on guard against any ruse, and since they are the winners of the war, they should demand complete withdrawal of all the so-called coalition troops from the soil of Yemen. Then only can the different tribal, political, and religious groups of Yemen can sit together, without any outside interference, to work out a settlement for governing the country.*

*Of course, Saudi Arabia should be made to pay war reparations amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars, not just for rebuilding the infrastructure, but as compensation to the families of the 20,000 odd martyrs of the two-and-a-half year long war.*

## Iran's Foreign Ministry: U.S. Religious Freedom Report 'Hypocritical'



An Iranian Jewish man holds a Torah scroll at the Molla Agha Baba Synagogue, Yazd, 676 kilometers south of capital Tehran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran on Wednesday rejected a U.S. religious freedom report critical of Tehran as “hypocritical”, coming from a country where Islamophobia is widespread.

Washington released its annual religious freedom report on Tuesday, with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson criticizing Bahrain, China, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Turkey.

“Iran considers it an unrealistic, baseless, unfounded and biased report which has only been made with the intention of certain political gains,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said.

“The report has once again pre-

sented a distorted and political image of the religious freedom situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, making wrong allegations, and is undoubtedly unacceptable and rejected,” he said.

He said Washington should focus on improving its own record of discrimination, particularly regarding its Muslim population.

“It is clear that religious and racial discrimination, Islamophobia, and xenophobia are a widespread and frequent phenomenon among American politicians,” said Qasemi.

“Muslims in America face violent and discriminating actions on a daily basis by state bodies like the police

and security forces.”

He touched on the principle of religious freedom enshrined in the Iranian Constitution, saying to address religious grievances, it is necessary to avoid a politicization of the issue and respect followers of all divine religions.

“The U.S. government is expected to take legal and practical measures as soon as possible to protect the freedom of religion, and particularly make sure that Muslim rights are respected in the United States, instead of passing judgment on the status of freedom of religion in other countries,” he said.

## Rouhani: Iran Firm on Boosting Latin America Ties

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – President Hassan Rouhani here on Wednesday reiterated Iran's policy of cooperation with Latin American states, saying the Islamic Republic's political will is to deepen relations with the friendly nations.

Speaking at a meeting with Uruguay's new ambassador, Rouhani stressed the need for boosting cooperation between Iran and Uruguay in all areas, including science and technology.

He further expressed hope that private sectors of the two countries would promote their cooperation to serve

the two nations' interests.

“It is the political will of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand ties with the friendly countries in Latin America, including Uruguay,” President Rouhani said.

The Uruguayan envoy, for his part, said Montevideo is determined to promote relations with Tehran in all fields. The diplomat also submitted his letter of credence to the Iranian president during the meeting.

Expansion of relations with Latin American nations in all political, economic and cultural fields has been top on the agenda of Iran's foreign policy in recent years.

## Iran's Top Security Official: Hezbollah Victories Herald Daesh Demise

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian official has hailed recent gains made by Hezbollah on the battlefield against Daesh, saying the victories herald the Takfiri terrorist group's collapse in the entire region.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani told Lebanon's Al-Ahed news website that Hezbollah fighters have dealt heavy blows to extremist terrorists, preventing their infiltration from neighboring Syria into Lebanon.

The SNSC head said Hezbollah's victories herald the annihilation of Daesh and foil the plots being pursued by the West, Zionists and their Arab allies in the troubled region.

Last month, Hezbollah conducted a six-day joint offensive with the Syrian army in Aarsal, which has been hardly hit by the spillover from the Syria crisis over the past few years. Lebanon's army did not formally declare its role in the offensive, but shelled terrorist positions in the operation area.

The resistance movement later said it had accomplished the main objective of the Aarsal campaign.

Referring to the Aarsal operation, Shamkhani said the offensive demonstrated Hezbollah's resolve to purge terrorists from the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Shamkhani also highlighted the resistance movement's important role in defeating terrorists in Syria, noting, “The growing popularity of Hezbollah in the Islamic world and Arab countries has enraged the Zionist regime and its mercenaries.”

Iran throws its weight behind the resistance movement and all the countries that are battling terrorism on the frontline, he added.

Shamkhani further congratulated the Lebanese government, nation and Hezbollah on the 11th anniversary of the country's victory against Israel in the 2006 war.

“Hezbollah's victory during the 33-day war was a source of inspiration for the Palestinian nation and resistance groups, especially

in Gaza,” Shamkhani said.

The win, he said, was “a mockery of Israel's so-called invincible army” and proved that the Islamic Ummah could defeat the world's strongest militaries whenever it wishes.

About 1,200 Lebanese, most of them civilians, lost their lives during the occupying regime of Israel's 33-day war on Lebanon back in the summer of 2006.

Hezbollah fighters involved in defending Lebanon against the Israeli war defeated the enemy, forcing Tel Aviv to withdraw without having achieved any of its objectives, according to the Winoograd Report by the Israeli regime itself.

Elsewhere in his comments, Shamkhani further denounced U.S. hypocrisy in the fight against terrorism, citing repeated landings made by American helicopters on Daesh-occupied territory and their targeting of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) near the Syrian border.

The Holy Qur'an



*Allah has promised to the believing men and the believing women gardens, beneath which rivers flow, to abide in them, and goodly dwellings in gardens of perpetual abode; and best of all is Allah's goodly pleasure; that is the grand achievement.*

The Holy Qur'an (9.72)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:09
Evening (Maghreb)	19:53
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	04:52
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	06:24

## IRGC Denies Ground Operation in Syria

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) denied Wednesday reports that its troops had been involved in a direct ground operation against Takfiri militants in Syria.

IRGC spokesman Ramezan Sharif emphasized that IRGC forces have not launched any ground operation independent of Syrian troops.

His comments came after Al Mayadeen TV said IRGC had launched an extensive military operation in Hamimah region, northwest of the Syrian city of Homs, to avenge Daesh's beheading of military advisor Mohsen Hojaji last week.

Sharif said the IRGC would keep providing advisory supports for the Syrian army and popular forces until the eradication of Takfiri terrorism in the Arab country.

He also underscored that fierce revenge awaited Daesh over the beheading, and that plans for the retaliation will be put into practice at an appropriate time.

In a message following the terrorist move, commander of the IRGC's Quds Force Major General Qassem Soleimani said Iran would exact a terrible revenge on Daesh.

On Tuesday, Sharif said Iran would boost its military capabilities, describing any decline in a country's military power as a grave mistake.

Speaking in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, he said the IRGC has made great headways in various fields over the past twenty years.

The enemies, he said, would have attacked Iran if the country had not built up its military capabilities. “While the IRGC does not favor a war, it is fully prepared to defend Iran against any assault,” he said.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said Iran's response to any aggression would not be confined to defense alone and that the aggressors would face crushing offensives.

“The era of hit and run has ended,” the Leader said in May 2015, adding the Iranian nation would chase aggressors to their hideouts.