

Arba'een – Message of Universal Brotherhood

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The Planet's largest annual gathering reached its climax yesterday in Karbala, Iraq, with an estimated 25 million pilgrims from various countries, giving a grand display to our strife-torn world of piety, probity, fraternity, morality, versatility, and all positive aspects of humanity, including religious integrity, as was evident by the presence amongst the overwhelming majority of Shi'a Muslims, of Sunni and Sufi Muslims, Christians, Mandaeans, Zoroastrians, and Hindus, marking the Arba'een or the traditional 40th day anniversary of the martyrdom of the Supreme Symbol of resistance against injustice, Imam Husain (AS).

Many of those converging on the shrine of the Chief of Masters walked on foot from different directions, especially the 80-km stretch from Najaf to Karbala, and these included – to name a few – former US Congresswoman Cynthia Ann McKinney, Italian author Fabrizia Baldissera, American writer Edith McLeod Armstrong, and Russian political scientist Alexander Dugin.

All said they were profoundly influenced by the peerless personality of the grandson of the Prophet of Islam, and the adherents of various Muslim sects or other religions, prayed during the march according to the tenets of their faith, while the priests were attired in their ceremonial garb of the Church, complete with crosses in their hands, but tears rolling down their eyes for the sufferings the Martyr of Karbala endured in order to salvage humanitarian values by refusing.

It is yet another testimony to the equity which is associated with the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt and their respect for solidarity among all mankind that is not found in any other creed or school of thought.

There was no discrimination whatsoever. Neither the Iraqi masses, who selflessly and free of charge served the huge gathering all along its long march by providing food, drinks and shelter, nor the two-and-a-half million Iranians participating in this year's memorable march, showed the least discrimination to pilgrims professing different beliefs, speaking different languages, and wearing different attire.

Yet, this spectacular demonstration of peace and unity of the human race, was not just ignored by the mainstream media of the West and the Takfiri-supporting Arab press, but senseless accusations were hurled by the two at the governments of Iran and Iraq for their close cooperation in making this rapidly-growing annual fixture a success.

The reason is obvious. The votaries of violence and the trumpeters of terrorism see Arba'een and the values for which Imam Husain (AS) sacrificed his life, and which are being espoused so ardently by the people and governments of Iran and Iraq in order to build a region of peace, stability and brotherhood that would serve as a model for other aspiring nations, as a threat to their hegemonic and illegal stranglehold.

Now we understand why the client regimes of the US, who don't represent the people they rule, don't have any accountability to the masses, don't allow the people to freely practice their beliefs, and don't stop creating and funding terrorists of all hue and colour for destabilizing other countries, call for sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They and their masters are, however, mistaken, if they think that Iran and the other nations of the region which have awakened, with popular forces defending their countries and sincerely serving the people, will yield to their threats and plots.

Imam Husain (AS) bequeathed to us a lasting legacy that was so brilliantly evident, not just in Iraq these days, but throughout the length and breadth of Iran where people in millions commemorated the immortal ideals of the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

The person, who was so cruelly martyred by the enemies of mankind, today draws hundreds of millions of people to his threshold, which means the modern day devils in human form will not succeed in derailing the freedom movement set in motion for the gradual enlightenment of the whole world, no matter what weapons they possess or the propaganda machines at their disposal.

Zarif: Era of Unilateral Security Has Ended



Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif addresses the International Conference on Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on Nov. 10, 2017.

SAMARKAND (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said on Friday the era of unilateral security and living in ivory towers and ensuring security based on military power has come to an end since a long time ago.

Speaking at an international security conference in this Uzbek city, Zarif stated after the events in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan, trans-regional meddlesome powers and the countries that seek to create insecurity by putting the security of others at stake to achieve their fabricated security have well learned that the era of unilateral security has come to an end.

"Security in the present-day interconnected world is not limited to military dimensions, and is

a multifaceted, intertwined and comprehensive issue," underlined Iran's foreign minister.

The Iranian top diplomat went on to say that "today, you cannot buy security with hundreds of billions of dollars and ship it to

the county. Commercialization of security is a new topic added by some international and trans-regional powers to political terms, and unfortunately they have good clients in this dollar-for-security deal."

Macron Doesn't Rule Out New Sanctions on Iran

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) -- French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday said he did not rule out new sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missile program.

Macron said Iran's ballistic missile program was "very worrying" and that additional measures against the Islamic Republic should be included in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The French leader proposed to amend the nuclear deal with Iran to cover ballistic missile development to avoid a "North Korean" scenario in the Middle East.

In a separate interview with Time magazine published Thursday, Macron claimed that a recent missile attack by Yemen's Houthi fighters on Saudi Arabia was "part of this ballistic activity of Iran in the region."

"So we should negotiate a new series of criteria and a new treaty with Iran to stop their ballistic activities in the region," Macron said.

Iran has vehemently ruled out any negotiation on its missile program which it deems as an inseparable plank of its national security, meant for defense and deterrence.

In his interview, Macron defended a landmark nuclear deal with Iran, warning that a termination of the accord as sought by the U.S. would be "crazy" which could lead to a new conflagration.

"If you want to stop any relation with Iran regarding nuclear activity, you will create a new North Korea," he said, adding, "If you stop the 2015 agreement, what's your other option? To launch war? To attack

The Holy Qur'an

Say: Do you await for us but one of two most excellent things? And we await for you that Allah will afflict you with punishment from Himself or by our hands. So wait; we too will wait with you.
The Holy Qur'an (9.52)
The Holy Qur'an (14.29)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:48
Evening (Maghreb)	17:20
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:11
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:37

"Today, security is an integrated and correlative issue in which security of one depends on the security of the other."

Zarif also underpinned that nowadays, in order to achieve security, all must rely on "people" as the most important element of a country's security to attain an endogenous security, and then achieve a sustainable and collective security through a constructive engagement with neighbors.

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Amano Meets Haley for Second Time on Iran

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano met Thursday in New York with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley for a second time on Iran's nuclear program with the Trump administration's next move on Iran at stake.

In a statement issued after the meeting, Amano said that he and Haley discussed the IAEA's verification and monitoring of Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and he briefed the U.S. ambassador on the IAEA's strong and effective safeguards activities in Iran.

He told CBS News, "It was a very useful meeting."

"Iran is now subject to the world's most robust nuclear verification regime, and the IAEA has so far had

access to all the locations it needed to visit in the country," Amano said, pushing back on recent criticism from Trump and from members of Congress.

On Friday, Amano told the UN General Assembly: "The Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement."

Haley expressed U.S. support for the IAEA's efforts in carrying out robust verification of nuclear-related activities in Iran, emphasizing the "importance of Iran ensuring full and transparent access for the IAEA to carry out their mandated monitoring activities."

This week, a dozen key U.S. Senators submitted to Haley a list of items for her to raise with the UN nuclear agency "in order to obtain more thorough vetting of Iranian compliance with the deal."

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Iran, Oman Discuss Regional Developments

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- Senior diplomats from Iran and Oman in a meeting in Muscat emphasized the necessity for peaceful settlement of regional crises.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi met with

Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah for talks on bilateral relations and the latest regional developments.

Both officials stressed the need for constant cooperation and political coordination between Iran

and Oman.

Sarmadi and bin Alawi also underlined that regional crises need to be resolved peacefully.

Heading an economic delegation, Sarmadi has traveled to Oman for political and economic

negotiations.

Iran and Oman enjoy age-old and close ties and their relations have become even closer after the two sides' agreements to boost mutual cooperation, especially in economic fields.