

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif submitted a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres reminding him of a four-point peace plan for Yemen that he had proposed to his predecessor, Ban Ki-moon, more than two years ago. In the letter to Guterres on Monday, Zarif expressed deep concern over “the extremely appalling situation” in Yemen caused by the Saudi-led war and called on the international community to help end the senseless war on the Arabian Peninsula country.

SYDNEY (Bloomberg) -- A dual-citizenship crisis roiling Australian politics has claimed its eighth lawmaker, with independent Senator Jacqui Lambie resigning after revealing she contravened the constitution. “I probably should have been a bit smarter and checked that citizenship stuff,” Lambie, 46, told reporters in Canberra after it was confirmed she inherited British citizenship from her Scottish-born father. “I don’t know who feels worse, me or my dad. I think we’re both gutted. We’re not sharing love for the bagpipes this morning.”

**Viewpoint**  
By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer  
**Will Hariri the Hostage Return as “Freeman” to Beirut?** P. 2

**Iran to Hold Culture Week in Uruguay** P. 3



**Rostami Selling His Olympic Gold to Aid Iran's Earthquake Victims** P. 6



**U.S. Provides Air Cover for Daesh in Syria** P. 8



## Iraqi Kurds Accept Court Ban on Secession

ERBIL (Dispatches) -- **Iraqi Kurdish authorities said on Tuesday they would accept a court decision prohibiting the region from seceding, signaling a new phase in efforts to restart stalled negotiations over its future.**

Iraq's Kurds voted overwhelmingly for secession in a referendum in September, defying the central government in Baghdad - which had ruled the ballot illegal - as well as neighboring Turkey and Iran which have their own Kurdish minorities.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) said on Tuesday it would respect the November 6 ruling by the Supreme Federal Court, which declared that no Iraqi province could secede.

“We believe that this decision must become a basis for starting an inclusive national dialogue between Erbil and Baghdad to resolve all disputes,” the KRG said in a statement.

“We strive for peace and we believe our rights must be safeguarded, as it is stated in the Constitution. To reach a comprehensive agreement, we call for constructive and genuine negotiations in order to build a secure future for all Iraqis.

“We also call upon religious leaders, all Iraqi political parties, civil society organizations and all those who believe in the Constitution, stability and peace to stand against those who encourage hostilities between Arabs and Kurds and use violence and aggression in response to disagreements.”

The concession marks the Kurds' latest attempt to revive negotiations with central government, which imposed retaliatory measures following the secession vote.

They included an offensive by Iraqi government forces and the Popular Mobilization Forces last month to wrest back control from the KRG of the oil city of Kirkuk and other disputed territories.

Iraq's prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, had previously urged the northern semi-autonomous Kurdish region to abide by the court's decision.

The court is responsible for settling disputes between Iraq's central government and the country's regions and provinces. Its decisions cannot be appealed, though it has no mechanism to enforce its ruling in the Kurdish region.

# Iran Mobilizes to Help Quake Victims



Backhoes dig through the debris of buildings toppled by a powerful earthquake in Sarpol-e-Zahab in western Iran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – **Iranian officials on Tuesday called off rescue operations, saying there was little chance of finding more survivors from the earthquake that shook parts of western Iran on Sunday, killing at least 530 people.**

“The rescue operations in Kermanshah province have ended,” Pir-Hussein Kolivand,

head of Iran's Emergency Medical Services, said.

Earlier in the day, rescuers used backhoes and heavy equipment to dig through the debris of buildings toppled by the powerful earthquake on the border between Iran and Iraq as aid workers found new bodies.

The grim work continued in earnest in the Kurdish town of Sarpol-e-Zahab in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, which appears to be the hardest hit in the magnitude 7.3 earthquake.

Survivors, many left homeless by the 7.3 magnitude earthquake

that struck villages and towns in a mountainous area bordering Iraq, battled overnight temperatures just above freezing and faced another day Tuesday in need of food and water.

The death toll of 530, reported by state news agency IRNA, made it Iran's deadliest earthquake in more than a decade. Thousands of people were injured and 30,000 homes damaged. Two whole villages were destroyed.

Thousands of people huddled in makeshift camps while many others chose to spend the night in

the open, despite low temperatures, because they feared more tremors after some 193 aftershocks, state television said.

A homeless young woman in Sarpol-e Zahab, one of the hardest-hit towns, told state TV that her family was exposed to the night cold because of lack of tents.

“We need help. We need everything. The authorities should speed up their help,” she said.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, offered his condolences on Monday to the victims and called on government agencies to do all they could to help.

The Iranian army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and its affiliated Basij forces were dispatched to affected areas on Sunday night.

Hospitals in nearby provinces took in many of the injured, state television said, airing footage of survivors waiting to be treated. Hundreds of critically injured were dispatched to hospitals in Tehran.

Iran's Red Crescent said emergency shelter had been provided for thousands of homeless people, but a lack of water and electricity as well as blocked roads in some areas hindered aid supply efforts.

“People in some villages are still in dire need of food, water and shelter,” said the governor of Qasr-e Shirin county in Kermanshah province, Faramarz Akbari.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Hariri Return to Lebanon ‘Urgent’: Mogherini

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- **The European Union's top diplomat Federica Mogherini called Tuesday for the return to Beirut of Prime Minister Saad Hariri and his family to be assured, during a meeting with Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil.**

“Hariri and his family's return to Lebanon is urgent in the coming days; (it) will support internal stability and will strengthen national unity within Lebanon,” Mogherini was quoted as saying, in a statement from the Foreign Ministry.

Bassil and Mogherini met in Brussels, after the minister arrived in Belgium on the first leg of a tour that his office had said was an attempt to explain the “ambiguous” resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

“Lebanon is still dealing with the problem with Saudi Arabia, within the framework of brotherly bilateral relations,” Bassil said. He added that his tour was part of an effort “to urge the kingdom (to understand) that what is happening is unacceptable.”

Bassil contacted in advance a number of international officials and foreign ministers, who affirmed their support for Lebanon's “unity, sovereignty and freedom,” the statement said.

Hariri's shock resignation on

Nov. 4, announced while the premier was in Riyadh, has ground Lebanon's government to a halt and destabilized the region.

Hariri has not yet returned to Beirut, but said in a wide-ranging interview Sunday – his first public statement since the televised resignation address – that he would be back in Lebanon in “two or three days.”

Hariri wrote on Twitter Tuesday that he is “fine” and will be returning to Lebanon in the coming days.

“I am fine and God willing I am coming back in the coming days. Let us remain calm,” he said. “My family is staying in their country, Saudi Arabia,” he said.

Foreign Ministry sources have told The Daily Star that although the visit schedule remains tentative, Bassil was set to meet with senior French and Russian leaders later this week, in addition to his sit-down with Mogherini.

Mogherini called Monday for “no external interference” in Lebanon. “We believe it is essential to avoid importing into Lebanon regional conflicts, regional tensions, that have to stay out of the country,” she said in a news conference.

Mogherini said that the EU's foreign ministers while meeting in Brussels Monday had voiced

unanimous support for Lebanon's “unity and stability.”

Bassil's meetings with European leaders come ahead of an extraordinary emergency Arab League meeting set to be held Saturday in Cairo.

Saudi Arabia called for the summit Sunday, with the support of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. The request was approved by the league's current head, Djibouti.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel Tuesday expressed “fears that the country (Lebanon) will become a puppet of Syria, Saudi Arabia or any other country.”

In a statement Tuesday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian echoed Mogherini's support for Lebanon's sovereignty.

“In order for there to be a political solution in Lebanon, political officials must certainly have a total freedom of action and non-intervention is the fundamental principle,” he said.

Few in the Lebanese capital believe Hariri stepped down on his own volition. Most speculate that he's being prevented from returning to Lebanon.

What is still murky is why Saudi Arabia, a long time supporter of Hariri, would want him to step down.

## Ahead of Plan to Resume Aid Shipments: Saudi Warplanes Bomb Sana'a Airport

SANAA, Yemen (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia bombed the airport in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, Tuesday, Yemeni officials said, though there were conflicting reports as to the extension of damage caused in the strike.

The United Nations said most of the airport remained intact and that it would be able to receive aid shipments once they restart - after Saudi Arabia loosens the blockade of the war-torn country as it had announced.

But Yemeni officials in Sana'a, which is held by Houthis, said the airports runway and a ground navigation tower were damaged. Repair crews were already at work, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Jamie McGoldrick of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said UN staff had visited the airport and spoken with authorities there, and that its “runway, taxiway, ramp,

terminal and air traffic control tower were not hit and are in good condition.”

“This will have no impact on our operations once they resume,” McGoldrick said in an email from Amman, Jordan.

Saudi Arabia has been pounding Yemen since March 2015. The kingdom blockades all Yemen air, land and sea ports last week in response to a ballistic missile attack on Riyadh.

Riyadh said on Monday that it would reopen ports in areas held by militants under its support and loosen restrictions it had raised after the firing of the missile.

However, McGoldrick said earlier in the day that there was “no indication” Saudi Arabia was actually lifting the blockade in line with its announcement.

He said that the Saudi announcements of the availability of two ports in southern Yemen are “helpful,” but that the key need is access to the Red Sea ports of Salif and Hudaydah,

closer to large population centers, which are currently inaccessible to UN aid shipments. Both ports are in the territory held by Houthi fighters and allies.

The airport drama came as Daesh struck a fresh blow to Saudi-backed militants in the country's south, where a car bombing early on Tuesday killed at least six people in the port city of Aden and wounded scores.

The Daesh-claimed attack took place at a building in the Sheikh Othman district in the central part of the city. Residents several kilometers away heard a large explosion and saw thick black smoke rising from the area.

The security building is an operations center for the Security Belt, a parallel body to the government's forces that is trained by the United Arab Emirates, a main pillar in the Saudi invasion that has backed former Yemeni president Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and waged a two-year air campaign against Yemen.