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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Muslim World's Disunity Emboldening Enemies of Islam to Hatch New Plots

By: S. Nawabzadeh

At a time when in stark contrast to the aspirations of the Ummah for Islamic unity and liberation of the first qibla, the treason of leaders of certain Arab regimes in ganging up with the US and the Zionists has emboldened these two avowed enemies of Muslims to declare occupied Bayt al-Moqaddas as capital of the illegal entity called Israel, reflection on some events of the past ought to help us guard against the disadvantages of disunity.

Interestingly, yesterday, the 26th of Rabi al-Awwal, was the anniversary of the historic day when in 41 AH (661 AD) Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), through a masterstroke of diplomacy in order to spare Muslims of unnecessary shedding of each other's blood and to prevent enemies from taking advantage of infighting amongst Muslims to encroach upon Islamic lands, relinquished his legitimate political right to the caliphate or political rule of the Islamic realm that stretched from Central Asia to Northern Africa.

The Elder Grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was a person unafraid of the risk to his life and had under his command tens of thousands soldiers of Iraq, Hijaz, and Iran, yet in order to unmask the hypocrisy of his obstinate opponent, Mu'awiyya ibn Abu Sufyan, the rebellious governor of Syria, who had an insatiable greed for power even if it meant disunity among Muslims or the possible loss of Palestine and Islam's first qibla, he decided to give up political rule.

In addition to the fickleness of faith of the Iraqis (the heroic Hashd ash-Sha'bi did not exist in those days), Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS) was well aware that the resurgent Byzantine emperor, Constantine IV, was planning to attack Palestine and seize Bayt al-Moqaddas in case of civil war among Muslims.

He thus did a great service to Islam and Muslims, or else Bayt al-Moqaddas would have been lost over four-and-a-half centuries earlier, before the invasion by the Crusaders of Europe in 1099 and their seizure of this holy Islamic land from the Fatemid Shi'a Muslim dynasty of Egypt – facilitated by disunity among Muslims.

It is an undeniable fact of history that for 88 years the spurious Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem existed on the sacred Islamic soil of Palestine, because of infighting amongst Muslims and treasonous treaties with the Crusaders by rulers of the petty states of those days, until the assembling of a united Muslim army of Turks, Kurds, Arabs and Iranians (especially sappers from Khorasan to undermine walls of the fortresses) for liberation of Bayt al-Moqaddas in 1087 and the safe passage provided by Salah od-Din Ayyoubi (Saladin) to Europe for the illegal Christian settlers.

Today, 69 years since the illegitimate birth of Israel on Palestinian soil and the situation more or less similar to the Crusader occupation days, with Muslim ranks split and treason being the hallmark of heads of reactionary regimes, as was clear by the absence at the OIC Summit in Istanbul of some of the loudmouthed Arab leaders who unabashedly worship at the altar of US imperialism and International Zionism, the onus is on the committed Muslims to mobilize the aspirations of the Ummah – including the masses living under the rule of fratricidal rulers bombing Yemen and advocating war with Islamic Iran – for the cherished goal of liberation of Bayt al-Moqaddas.

We do not expect the present set of rulers to follow in the footsteps of Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), since unlike the Prophet's grandson, neither their authority is legitimate nor are they the representatives of the people they rule and whose wealth they loot for spending in pursuit of personal pleasures or to present it to the US.

President Hassan Rouhani of Iran gave a selfless speech in Istanbul last Wednesday, declaring the Islamic Republic's readiness for unconditional talks with all for resolving of differences, in order to coordinate joint efforts for the sake of Islam's first qibla, and calling on leaders of Muslim states to bury the hatchet by ending feuds and the war on Yemen, as well as the treasonous ties with the Zionist entity.

At the same venue, the host, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan branded Israel a "terrorist state" and appealed to Muslims worldwide to pressure the US to rescind its roguish decision to shift the American embassy to the occupied Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas.

Though Muslim masses all over the world have welcomed these calls and are continuing their protests with the desire to serve as soldiers in any joint Islamic force, the reactionary leaders are acting to the contrary, with no public demonstrations allowed against Israel in the lands they rule.

As for the Iranian president's offer of dialogue, not only has no response been received so far through diplomatic channels, but on the contrary Arab reactionary regimes have intensified their poisonous propaganda against Iran, coupled with intensification of the bombardment of the poor Yemenis and open talks of alliance with the Zionists, at the expense of the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people.

Ministry: Iran Backed OIC Statement With a Caveat



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani speaks during an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul, December 13, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Ministry says the Islamic Republic's support for the final statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit in Istanbul does not mean that the country recognizes Israel.

Referring to the documents endorsed at the extraordinary summit of the OIC in Istanbul, ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said Tehran expressed its support for the

inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, but its support for the final declaration of the summit in no way means Iran has recognized the fake occupying Zionist regime.

Iran has refrained from endorsing certain articles of the final statement which somehow implied recognition of Israel, he added.

"Iran's refusal to recognize the Zionist regime was also formally announced in writing to the Secre-

tariat of the Summit in Istanbul," Qasemi told reporters on Thursday.

Jerusalem al-Quds remains at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with Palestinians hoping that the eastern part of the city would eventually serve as the capital of a future independent Palestinian state.

The entire city went under Israel's control after the regime annexed East Jerusalem al-Quds in 1967 during the Arab War.

Iran 'Fully Prepared' for U.S. Termination of JCPOA

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- Amid indications that the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump may be ready to walk away from a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, a senior Iranian official says that Tehran is "fully prepared" for that eventuality, but he warned that its collapse could jeopardize regional stability.

"It's up to the U.S. government and Mr. Trump. If he feels that the Middle East will be a better place without (the nuclear deal), then he can try it," Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, told Kyodo News in an interview here.

Speaking a day after a meeting in Vienna of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the landmark deal is formally called, Araqchi said his ministry and the Iran Atomic Energy Organization already have instructions on how to react if the U.S. government pulls out.

His remarks came just days after U.S. media reports that Trump, irked at the U.S. Congress for not implementing new nuclear sanctions against Iran, will likely pull the United States out of the deal entirely when it comes up for recertification on Jan. 13, under a law that requires him to waive such sanctions regularly.

In October, he refused to recertify it. Trump has repeatedly called the deal signed during the preceding administration an "embarrassment." While campaigning for the presidency, he vowed to scrap it if elected -- though other parties dispute his authority to do so unilaterally.

Since taking office in January, however, Trump has suggested it could be renegotiated to include limits on Iran's missile capabilities.

"The nuclear deal is not renegotiable and also it's not

possible to open and add anything else to it," Araqchi said, while noting that the deal was unanimously endorsed by the UN Security Council and that the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly confirmed Iran's compliance with its obligations.

Regarding ongoing back-and-forth between Trump and the U.S. Congress over the deal and over Trump's push to ramp up sanctions on Iran, the deputy foreign minister said, "This has nothing to do with us. What is important for us is U.S. full compliance."

Araqchi said the U.S. delegation assured the Joint Commission that the United States remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the deal, even as it has imposed sanctions against Iran since implementation began and is mulling even more.

He accused Washington of also violating the spirit of the deal by creating an atmosphere of "confusion" and "uncertainty" around it, which has rattled foreign companies operating in Iran and frightened off potential investors.

The commission that met in Vienna is responsible for overseeing the deal's implementation, including the sanctions-lifting process, and dealing with complaints raised by the parties.

It was agreed Wednesday to hold the next meeting in April, Araqchi said.

The European Union has rebuffed Trump's call for the deal, which culminated 12 years of EU-facilitated diplomacy, to be renegotiated, insisting it is "working."

EU foreign ministers warned last October that its collapse could have serious security implications, while also undermining efforts to get North Korea to freeze its nuclear and missile development programs.

The
Holy
Qur'an

*And the Jews say:
Uzair is the son of Al-
lah; and the Christians
say: The Messiah is
the son of Allah; these
are the words of their
mouths; they imitate
the saying of those who
disbelieved before; may
Allah destroy them; how
they are turned away!*

The Holy Qur'an (9.30)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:56
Evening (Maghreb)	17:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:31
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:01

Russia, Iran, Turkey Back Syrian Territorial Integrity

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Russia, Turkey and Iran have "full understanding" of countering terrorism and preserving Syria's territorial integrity, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday.

"Moscow, Ankara and Tehran do not 100% share the same goals in Syria. Each country may have different approaches to the situation in Syria. However, the trio have full understanding of countering terrorism and preserving Syria's territorial integrity," Lavrov said in his speech at Russia's Federation Council.

He said the three guarantor powers have managed to serve each other's interests.

"These mutual interests provide consistent and effective work to the Astana format," he said.

Russia, Turkey and Iran brokered a ceasefire in Syria in December 2016, leading them to the Astana peace talks in the Kazakh capital.

Regarding dialogue with the U.S., Lavrov said Russia is open to "constructive" joint work with Washington. "Unfortunately, we do not see any progress from the U.S. administration," he said.

Lavrov added that Russia is not in favor of "deepening" confrontation. "But, of course, we will continue to respond to any unfriendly steps in accordance within the principle of reciprocity."

Caspian Demarcation Not Discussed in Moscow

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi on Friday rejected the notion that the demarcation of the Caspian Sea had been discussed in a recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the littoral states in Russia.

Speaking to reporters here, Qasemi pointed to the outcome of the ministerial meeting of the Caspian Sea littoral states held

last week in Moscow and said no decision about the countries' shares of the sea was made.

He further emphasized that the issue of demarcation was not even on the agenda of the meeting.

The process of talks on the demarcation is not within the framework of the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, the spokesman added.

Due to deep differences in the stances of the littoral states on the demarcation issue, it seems that there will be no agreement in the near future, Qasemi said.

He went on to say that issues related to the Caspian Sea's demarcation and shares of littoral states would be discussed and finalized in separate talks and protocols.

The seventh ministerial meeting of Caspian states was held in

Moscow on December 5 with Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif in attendance.

The ministerial meeting focused on the draft document of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea.

The Caspian Sea Convention will determine the territorial rights of the littoral states as well as other matters related to the world's largest landlocked body of water.