

Nuclear Exhibition Opens in Najafabad

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An exhibition of Iran's achievements in the area of peaceful nuclear technology opened in the central city of Najafabad in Isfahan province on Saturday.

The 41st specialized exhibition of Iran's nuclear industry achievements began at the Azad University of Najafabad on Saturday and will last until Wednesday, December 20. The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior Iranian officials, including Asghar Zare'an, a special assistant to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

Kayhan International



Official: Iran's Regional Influence Growing

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Ali Akbar Velayati, an international adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution, praised Iran's growing influence in the Middle East and said the country's position as the strongest power in the region is being strengthened.

Speaking during a televised program, Velayati pointed to plots hatched by some Western and regional countries against Iran, saying they are aimed at disintegrating the region in order to make the Islamic Republic's borders insecure.

VOL NO: LV 10492 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Sunday, December 17, 2017, Azar 26, 1396, Rabi al-Awwal 28, 1439, Price 15000 Rials

Viewpoint

By: S. Nawabzadeh

Nimrata's Nonsense, a New Narrative of the Old Hypocrisy Against Iran

11th Tehran Int'l Cartoon Biennial Names Winners



Qatar to Use Iran's Kish Island for World Cup 2022



Yemeni Forces Fire Missile at Saudi Army Command Center



What Happened to All Daesh Terrorists?

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – An estimated 40,000 people traveled from around the world to take up arms for Daesh as it occupied territory in Syria and Iraq and declared a caliphate in 2014.

A few hundred are believed to still be fighting as Daesh struggles to survive, having lost most of its territory to campaigns by Syrian and Iraqi coalition armies. But what happened to the rest?

Many thousands were certainly killed in the intense fighting, but U.S. experts believe many have survived, posing a formidable threat going ahead.

"The issue is: how many have died? How many are still there and willing to fight? How many have gone elsewhere to fight?" said Seth Jones, director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center at the Rand Corporation.

"How many have given up? I don't think we have a good answer."

International counterterrorism groups are putting huge efforts into answering those questions, working hard to name, count and track Daesh foreign fighters.

In France, officials say, around 1,700 people went to Iraq and Syria since 2013 to join Daesh. Of those, 400 to 450 have been killed, and 250 returned to France.

Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on December 8 that about 500 are still in the Iraq-Syria theater, and for them, it is now very hard to return to France.

But that leaves another 500 whose whereabouts are unknown, many of them with the skills of war, wielding weapons and making bombs.

Terrorism specialist Bruce Hoffman of Georgetown University estimated during a conference Wednesday that "thousands" have escaped the war zone.

"Today, some of them are most likely in the Balkans, lying low for the time being, waiting for the opportunity to infiltrate themselves to the rest of Europe," he said.

Some have traveled to other Takfiri fronts, according to Thomas Sanderson, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Transnational Threats Project.

For example, he said, at least 80 Daesh fighters from Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen have joined since May the Daesh-allied Abu Sayyaf terrorists battling government forces in the southern Philippines.

Local people in the northern Afghanistan province of Jowzjan have told AFP that French-speaking Daesh veterans - from France or northern African countries - have recently set up camp there.

And they also have the option of other conflict zones in northern Africa, like Libya, Somalia, Yemen and elsewhere where Takfiri groups akin to Daesh are conducting violent insurgencies.

The defeat of Daesh on the battlefield in Syria in Iraq did not close off escape routes. Daesh fighters were able to blend in with civilian refugees or bribe their way to sneak into Turkey.

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the U.S. may be sparing some militants in Syria in the hope that they will fight President Bashar Assad's government.

Speaking at an annual news conference in Moscow, Putin pointed to occasions when the Russian military in Syria would warn its U.S. counterparts about militants heading from Syria to Iraq, but the U.S. wouldn't launch an airstrike. Putin said that may indicate an intention to "use them in the fight against Assad."

Putin visited the Russian military air base in Syria Monday to declare victory in the fight against Daesh and other militants and a partial Russian military withdrawal from the country.

Last month, the British daily the Times Daesh bought free passage through Syrian territory controlled by the U.S.-backed PKK/PYD terror group for as little as \$200.

The newspaper said 2,000 Daesh terrorists escaped Manbij in Syria's Aleppo province when it was taken by the PKK/PYD in August last year.

In an interview, former commander and spokesman of the SDF Talal Silo said Daesh terrorists bought documents from the U.S.-backed group that is largely controlled and manned by the PKK/PYD, allowing them to escape.

Even high-profile Daesh commanders, or emirs, were able to purchase the papers for a few thousand dollars, Silo told the newspaper.

Silo defected from the SDF last month and is currently in Turkey. "Around 2,000 militants ran away from Manbij," he told The Times. "I was there when they left. They were able to get papers from SDF commanders."

The SDF and the U.S. provided "security" as they headed towards Jarablus on the Turkish border, he said.

Silo also revealed that a similar deal was brokered in Al Tabqah on the Euphrates River.

His defection and revelations came after the BBC reported last month that the SDF and U.S. allowed 250 terrorists and 3,500 of their family members to flee Raqqa on Oct. 12.

The Times report said Manbij was known as "Little Britain" because of the high number of British recruits.

Citing the U.S.-based Soufan Center, the newspaper said around 35,000 Daesh terrorists, including 400 Brits, remained unaccounted for.

A new report released on Friday revealed that weapons provided by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia to militants in Syria ended up in the hands of the Daesh group.

According to Conflict Armament Research, an organization that tracks arm shipments, military equipment including anti-tank weapons that were secretly transferred by CIA to what the U.S. calls "moderate" militants fighting Bashar al-Assad were in Daesh possession within two months of leaving the factory.

The study, which was funded by the European Union and Germany, examined 40,000 weapons and equipment recovered from Daesh in the last three years, as the group's "caliphate" continues to shrink in the face of losses in Raqqa and Mosul.

Human rights lawyers said on Tuesday French cement group Lafarge paid close to \$15.2m to armed organizations, including Daesh, to keep operating in Syria from 2011 to 2015.

The lawyers were speaking at a news conference on the course of a preliminary inquiry launched in June by French prosecutors into Lafarge's operations on suspicion of "financing of a terrorist enterprise".

UN Report: U.S. Becoming 'Champion of Extreme Inequality'



View of a homeless man lying on a bench using USA flag as blanket.

WASHINGTON (Guardian) – The United States under Donald Trump is fast becoming "the world champion of extreme inequality", according to a devastating report by the United Nations' expert on poverty.

While the U.S. is one of the richest nations, entrenched poverty already experienced by many will be made worse by policies promoted by Trump and the Republicans, in particular a planned tax overhaul that critics say gives huge cuts to the wealthy, it added.

"The American dream is rapidly becoming the American illusion, as the United States now has the lowest rate of social mobility of any of the rich countries," said Philip Alston the UN Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

"American exceptionalism was a constant theme in my conversations. But instead of realizing its founders' admirable commitments, today's United States has proved itself to be exceptional in far more problem-

atic ways that are shockingly at odds with its immense wealth and its founding commitment to human rights."

He added: "There is no other developed country where so many voters are disenfranchised and where so few poor voters even care to go to the polls."

Alston delivered his comments alongside a draft report which he made public. His final report will be available in the spring of 2018 and will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in June of next year.

Iran's Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Jazayeri: U.S. Ignorant About Yemen's Missile Capabilities

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian officials on Saturday continued to vehemently reject alleged pieces of what the U.S. said were Iranian weapons supplied to the Houthi fighters in Yemen.

Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri denounced the allegations made on Thursday by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley as "absurd".

"This person's comments have roots in her lack of understanding of military issues," Brigadier General Jazayeri said.

"If the Americans had been informed of the high level of the Yemeni resistance's missile technology, they would have refused to make such absurd comments," he added.

During her press conference on

Thursday, Haley appeared standing before parts of a ballistic missile that she claimed Iran delivered to the Houthis who then fired it at the Riyadh airport in Saudi Arabia last month.

A Houthi military spokesman heavily criticized U.S. charges that Iran was funneling missiles to the Yemeni fighters battling Saudi aggression.

Muhammad Abdul Salam said late Friday on Twitter that Washington is "fabricating lies" to escape the repercussions of its recent decision to recognize the contested city of Jerusalem Al-Quds as the so-called capital of Israel, a move that triggered protests in the Arab and Muslim world including in Yemen.

The U.S. said Thursday it had "undeniable" evidence that Tehran

(Continued on Page 7)

California's Third Largest Blaze On Record Rages

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – A raging California wildfire Saturday became the state's third largest blaze on record, with more devastation possible from a resurgence of the harsh winds that have fueled the deadly fire's growth.

The so-called Thomas Fire has destroyed more than 1,000 structures, including about 750 homes, in coastal communities in Southern California since erupting on Dec. 4, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said in a statement.

It has cost \$97 million to fight the 104,813-hectare blaze, with thousands of firefighters contending with it around the clock and helicopters and airplanes being used to drop retardant on the flames.

The vast landscape charred by

On his 15-day visit around the U.S., the Australian Alston, a law professor at New York University, visited Los Angeles, San Francisco, Alabama, Georgia, Puerto Rico and West Virginia. He spoke to low-income families and officials.

In Alabama, he saw conditions he said he had never previously witnessed in the developed world. Taken to Butler and then Lowndes counties he was shown families whose homes had no proper sewage system and who create their own unhygienic systems using PVC piping.

While E. coli is common in both communities, which are largely made up of African Americans, academics recently discovered that hookworm, a disease associated with extreme poverty and which was thought to have been eradicated in the U.S. more than 100 years ago, still persists in pockets of Lowndes County, located just 20 miles from the state capital, Montgomery.

"I think it's very uncommon in the first world. This is not a sight that one normally sees," Alston told AL.com as he visited Alabama. "I'd have to say that I haven't seen this."

Alston said statistics from the

(Continued on Page 7)

the blaze, which is centered less than 161 kilometers northwest of downtown Los Angeles, reached 104,813 hectare early on Saturday, surpassing the 104,131 hectares destroyed by California's Rim Fire in 2013, authorities said. The Rim Fire had been the third-largest blaze on record in the state.

The Thomas Fire is only 40% contained and it threatens 18,000 structures, officials said, including some in the wealthy enclave of Montecito just outside the city of Santa Barbara. The blaze is chewing up tall grass and brush as it expands along the scenic Pacific Coast.

The hot Santa Ana winds that have helped the fire grow, at times sending embers far ahead of its main flank, were forecast

(Continued on Page 7)