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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Will India Punish Abusers-Murderers of 8-Year Old Asefa?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Not just the conscientious people of India, but the whole civilized world is in a state of profound shock on learning of the brutalized murder of 8-year old Asefa Bano, who was kidnapped, tortured, drugged, gang-raped, and then after several days of repeated abuse, was bludgeoned to death, and that too in a temple, and of all the people, by a government official and a special police officer.

A temple houses the deities the idolaters worship as gods, or as incarnations of the One and Only Creator of the whole universe; hence it is supposed to be a holy place where human beings ought to be treated with respect and given protection in case they are in danger or are being persecuted.

A priest is supposed to be a pious person who is not just expected to abstain from sins, but ought to preach the word of God to instill compassion in hearts and tolerance in minds for the creatures of God so that others do not commit sins or crimes – at least those in personal contact with him and in the premises of the temple.

A government official, whether retired or in service, is supposed to abide by the constitution of the country in order to safeguard social justice.

A police officer is supposed to be observer, protector and enforcer of law and order; keen on safeguarding peace and stability in his place of assignment, so the area under his jurisdiction remains free of crimes.

Yet, in the case of the innocent Kashmiri Muslim girl of the nomad Bakarval tribe of Kathua that follows the centuries-old pattern of grazing sheep and horses, unconnected to either the politics of the disputed Himalayan region or the rabidly communal atmosphere created by hate-filled politicians, all the four above-mentioned elements or factors joined together, with a few others to traumatize and sexualize, and brutalize her to death, under the protection of the elected members of the legislative assembly, the parliament, and even ministers.

According to reports, the culprits were a retired government official, his son who came from another city to “satisfy his lust”, his juvenile nephew and his close friend, and the special police officer were all part of the conspiracy and crime to kidnap, rape and kill the eight-year-old girl.

It means the priest who solemnized the detention, drugging, gang-rape, and finally murder of the minor girl in the temple and in front of the idols, had no faith in the deities he ritually worshipped.

It means the government official who came with his son and juvenile nephew to satisfy lust, was making a mockery of the country's constitution,

It also means that the special police officer, 28-year Deepak Khajuria, who on being ordered by the priest and the politician to murder Asefa after she was made to satisfy their carnal desires, requested that he be allowed to rape the drugged girl for the last time, before she is killed. Such is the sorry state of affairs in not just Kashmir, but in many parts of India, especially after the Muslim-hating BJP won the elections to form the national government.

The family of the victims are demanding justice, which is not so easy to come, even if for the time being the culprits have been arrested – mainly to cool down tempers.

The public, whether Muslim or Hindu, is calling for punishment of the culprits, who after a lengthy court procedure that would drag on for years, will eventually be set free.

Of late, India has earned the dubious distinction of detaining the innocent and giving a free hand to the culprits, especially the communal ones.

What India needs is social justice, but no one in the government, not even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who hops around the world meeting leaders of foreign countries including Heads of Muslim state, seem interested in redressing the wrongs.

Which means, the current chaotic state of affairs is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, until something drastic takes place to rectify the misconstrued policies.

Iran, Vietnam Agree to Strengthen Traditional Ties



Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani poses for photos after talks with chairwoman of Vietnamese National Assembly Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan in Hanoi, April 16, 2018.

HANOI (Dispatches) -- Vietnamese National Assembly chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan and visiting Iranian Speaker of Parliament Ali Larijani agreed here on Monday to consolidate traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The Vietnamese top legislator called for close coordination between Vietnam and Iran to lift two-way trade to \$2 billion, and said that the fields of information technology and telecommunications boast major cooperation potential, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Larijani said he believed that the two countries will achieve the trade target, adding that Iran can assist Vietnam in the field of oil

and gas, and wants to learn from Vietnam's experience in agriculture.

He also called for boosting ties in potential fields such as pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, bank connectivity, tourism, film, television, and exchange of lecturers and students.

He said while the two sides had operated several chartered flights, they needed to consider launching direct flight service to step up economic, trade and tourism development.

They also agreed to enhance the exchange of all-level visits and coordinate more closely at global and regional forums, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Separately, president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Tran Thanh Man said Vietnam always attaches importance to the traditional friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with Iran.

He further used the occasion to congratulate Iran on the economic achievements, political stability and the elevated position in the region and the world the country has recorded.

Larijani, for his part, briefed the host about outcomes of his talks with other Vietnamese officials.

The Iranian speaker urged the two countries to step up their affiliation, particularly in trade and investment and raise bilateral trade for the sake of their people.

Iran Dismisses Final Statement: Arab League Summit Held Under Saudi 'Dark Shadow'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has blasted the final statement of the Arab League summit, rejecting allegations made against the Islamic Republic and reiterating Tehran's principled policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

“As in previous statements, once again baseless allegations and false claims have been made against the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said.

He said the statement issued at the end of the Arab League summit in the Saudi city of Dhahran had ignored the facts on the ground and failed to identify the exact causes of the regional crises.

“There were high expectations that the meeting would take a positive step towards regional convergence in identifying the key factors of restoring stability and peace to the region, apart from adoption of repetitive double standards,” Qasemi said.

“However, the dark shadow of the Saudis' destructive policies is evident over the final statement of the summit,” he added.

Qasemi further emphasized that the Iranian islands of the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, and Abu Musa are an inseparable part of the country.

He also dismissed “baseless, useless and essentially

false claims” by some southern neighbors of Iran and their creation of fake names for the Iranian islands.

Such claims are outdated and ineffective and amount to interference in Iran's internal affairs, he added.

“It is a pity that some of the member states of the Arab League ignore the historical and geographical realities and disregard the sovereignty of their neighbors,” he said, adding they do not follow a rational policy based on good neighborliness.

Qasemi went on to say that by misrepresenting certain historical realities, the countries in question waste the capacities and potentialities of the Arab and Muslim countries to resolve the regional crises by making such allegations and futile efforts.

“Tehran's principled policy has always been based on maintaining more convergence and mutual respect for the sovereignty of other countries, especially the neighbors, and the observance of good neighborliness,” he said.

In the same breath, he added, Iran expects regional countries not to make false allegations, show mutual respect, and not interfere in each other's affairs.

Moreover, Qasemi called on the Arab League member states to take necessary measures to build

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FM Zarif in Tajikistan to Attend ECO Meeting

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif headed to Tajikistan on Monday at the head of a political delegation to attend the 23rd ECO Ministerial Meeting in Dushanbe.

Zarif is also to hold talks with senior Tajik officials and discuss ways to expand mutual cooperation, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said.

This is the second visit of Zarif to Tajikistan within the past

few months. In November 2017, the Iranian top diplomat visited the Central Asian country for the first time over the past couple of years.

Relations between the two countries took a nosedive in late December 2015 on the issue of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan. While the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) was considered by the Tajik government as a banned party,

its leader Muhiddin Kabiri, who lives in exile, was invited to an international conference in Tehran, and this outraged the Central Asian state.

Tajik authorities said despite the fact that Kabiri was accused of organizing riots in September 2015, Iran had invited him to the International Conference of Islamic Unity while he was seated next to the head of Tajikistan's state-backed Council of Islamic Ulama

and other members of the official delegation from Tajikistan.

Informed sources say the tension between the two countries goes way back to earlier disputes, including over assets of jailed Iranian billionaire Babak Zanjani in Tajikistan which is refusing to repatriate to the Islamic Republic.

Observers hope Zarif's visit to Dushanbe would help mend ties between the two countries which speak the same language.

The Holy Qur'an



The building which they have built will ever continue to be a source of disquiet in their hearts, except that their hearts get cut into pieces; and Allah is Knowing, Wise.

The Holy Qur'an (9.110)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:04
Evening (Maghreb)	19:58
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:01
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:29

IRGC Chief Commander:

Enemies Trying to Spread Despair Among Iranians

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Muhammad Ali Jafari said on Monday Iran's enemies are seeking to inflict a heavy blow on the country by spreading despair across the society, but to no avail.

In an address to a ceremony in Tehran, the top commander underlined that the Islamic establishment has managed to survive all plots by the enemies, Iran Front Page reported.

He went on to say that the Islamic and revolutionary establishment in Iran is moving in the right direction and with the capacities created so far in the region it will survive and thrive further.

General Jafari further noted that despite all efforts by the enemies in the region, the resistance movement is gaining more achievements.

He said the Islamic establishment has also managed to make tremendous victories in the Middle East and added the enemies from across the world mobilized their forces to defeat Iran particularly the IRGC by creating a regional war but “thanks to God's grace, we defeated and eradicated Daesh and its commanders over the past year.”

He also noted that the resistance and victories achieved so far are deeply rooted in the experience Iran gained during the eight-year war imposed by Iraq under former dictator Saddam Hussein on the country.