

# Condolences on the Martyrdom of Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA)

## Venezuela Seizes Shipments of U.S. Weapons

CARACAS (Dispatches) -- Venezuelan authorities on Wednesday seized a large shipment of U.S.-made weapons sent aboard a cargo plane that had arrived from Miami, Florida.

Photos of the weapons bust were shared on the official Twitter account of the Venezuela Public Safety Bureau, showing a large number of arms and munitions laid out by the police. The authorities seized 19 rifles, 118 ammunition clips, high-caliber ammo and 90 communication devices.

# Kayhan International



## Tehran Blasts Trump's Accusations

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi on Wednesday lashed out at U.S. President Donald Trump for the allegations he made against Iran in his State of the Union speech. "Terrorism in the Middle East and West Asia is the result... of the wrong policies of the U.S. and a number of its main allies over the past years and decades in the region, which, on the basis of the policy of instrumental use of terrorism, have pursued their strategies such as creation of Al-Qaeda and Daesh and other extremist and terrorist groups," he said.

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**Viewpoint**

**Venezuela May Turn Out to Be Another Syria for the US**

**'Watching This Film Is a Crime' Competes at Fajr Film Festival**



**Iran Futsal Defeat Serbia in Two Friendly Matches**



**'Terrorists Move Chlorine Barrels to Northwestern Syria'**



## Martyrdom of the Noblest-Ever Lady

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

Heartfelt condolences to our readers on the threshold of a tragic anniversary. We are approaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani, the day on which in the year 11 hijri, only 95 days after the departure from the world of a loving father, an aggrieved daughter passed away, plunging her husband and four small children in profound grief.

The father was none other than the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all mankind, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA). The Immaculate Daughter was his only surviving child, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), whose martyrdom anniversary is commemorated as a public holiday in the Islamic Republic of Iran where special mourning discourses are in progress to highlight the blessed lady's merits and the sufferings she patiently endured in the defence of the God-given right of political leadership of her husband, the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Taleb (AS), for the sake of safeguarding Islam and all humanitarian values.

*"Surely my daughter Fatema is the Leader of all women from the beginning to the end. She is part of me, and the light of my eyes, She is the flower of my heart, and is my soul, (she) is a human houri, who whenever she stands in prayers in the presence of Her Lord (Exalted is His Name), her light illuminates the skies for the angels, like stars shine to people on Earth."*

This is one of the statements of the Prophet to describe to his companions his only surviving offspring, whom God Almighty has hailed in the holy Qur'an as *'Kowthar'* or the Fountain of Perpetual Abundance.

As a matter of fact, the life of the noblest-ever lady that graced Planet Earth, who was indeed the Pride of Prophet Jesus's mother, the Virgin Mary (SA), was cut short in the prime of youth by the afflictions to which she was subjected at the hands of a roguish group of the Prophet's companions, no sooner did her father pass away.

Fatema (SA) was virtue personified. Her pristine purity, radiance of faith, devotion to divine commandments, perpetually abundant munificence, and other exemplary characteristics, God Almighty Himself has enshrined in the holy Qur'an in several ayahs.

It would be repetitive to recount these unrivalled merits, or the fact that despite the words of God and the Prophet, her house was stormed with fire and crowbars who flung the door in her face and pinned her to the wall, resulting in miscarriage of the stillborn Mohsin – the Prophet's youngest grandson and the first martyr of the Ahl al-Bayt.

What was the reason for commitment of such a cardinal sin by persons, who had been witness to the practice of the Prophet to salute at Fatema's (SA) doorstep, and to stand up and make her sit in his place whenever she entered his presence?

Didn't they knew she was the "Siddiqat al-Kubra" or the Most Truthful Lady?

Hadn't they heard the Prophet's famous saying: *"Fatema is a part of me; whoever displeases her, has displeased me; and indeed God is displeased at those who displeases me?"*

Was it not the wealth of her mother, the Immaculate *Omm al-Momineen* (Mother of all True Believers), Khadijat al-Kubra (SA) that had fed them, clothed them, and sheltered them during the days of persecution of the neo-Muslims by the pagan Arabs in Mecca?

Weren't they aware that if not for the valour and swordsmanship of her husband, Imam Ali (AS), they would have slain long ago by the Arab and Israelite hordes who used to impose battles upon Muslims – Badr, Ohad, Khandaq, Khaybar, Honayn etc.

How come they had chosen to incur divine wrath when facts and realities about Fatema and her household were as crystal clear as the shining sun?

The answers are obvious. It was their coveting of the political leadership of the Ummah, which neither God nor the Prophet had willed for them.

They thought that power will forever belong to them if the Prophet's divinely-designated vicegerent was forced to acknowledge their usurpation of the caliphate under threats – a rope around his neck, a sword menacingly unsheathed at him, and his wife writhing in pain and agony. Fatema Zahra (SA), however rose to the defence of the right of her husband and in a sermon that remains eloquently impressive after the passing of a millennium and four centuries, she not just immortalized the fundamentals of Islam which they were breaching, but the rights of women, especially their inheritance.

It is worth recalling that on revelation of ayah 26 of Surah al-Isra' which says *"Give the nearest of kin their [due] right, and the needy and the traveller"*, the Prophet had called his dear daughter and said: *"Fadak is one of the territories for which we did not exhaust our horses or camels to acquire it; it is mine exclusively. Now, I gift it to you and your offspring according to God's instructions."*

He was referring to the large orchard which was gifted to him by the people of Khaybar, and regarding which God says in the holy Qur'an in ayahs 6 and 7 of Surah al-Hadeed: *"That which Allah gave to His Prophet from them; you did not spur any horse for its sake nor any riding camel, but Allah makes His prophets prevail over whomever He wishes, and Allah has power over all things."*

*"That which Allah gave to His Prophet from the people of the towns, are for Allah and the Prophet, the near of kin and the orphans, the needy and the traveller, so that they do not circulate among the rich among you. Take whatever the Prophet gives you, and relinquish whatever he forbids you, and be wary of Allah. Indeed Allah is severe in retribution."*

The Most Truthful Lady warned the self-style caliph and his companions of divine punishment for their unjustified actions, including their seizure of Fadak, whose income she used to spend on the poor and needy. She told them: *"Now hang firmly to this cheap dromedary of caliphate of yours and release it not. But beware; the hump of this camel is injured while there are blisters and holes in its feet. It carries the scars of ignominy and the sign of the wrath of Allah. Eternal shame is attached to it."*

Alas, 95 days after the passing away of the Prophet, Hazrat Fatema (SA) was forced to leave the mortal world, plunging her husband and four little children (two sons and two daughters) in profound grief. She willed than she be laid to rest in the darkness of night, so that her tormentors do not attend her funeral.

As per her will, Imam Ali (AS) performed her last rites, and to this day, no one knows where the Most Truthful Lady, reposes in eternal peace.

Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), the Mother of the Youths of Paradise – Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS), and the two Impeccable Daughters Hazrat Zainab (SA) and Hazrat Omm Kolthoum (SA) – thus stands out as the Fulcrum of Faith that links Prophethood to Imamate, and around which revolves genuine Islam, which will reach its climax with the reappearance of her last infallible offspring, Imam Mahdi (AS), who, as promised by God Almighty, will establish the global government of peace, prosperity, and justice in the end times.

## Ayatollah Sistani Rejects Trump's Plan in Iraq



In this May 22, 2014 file photo, pilgrims pass a poster of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, as they head to the shrine of Imam Musa Kadhim (AS) in Baghdad.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- **Iraq's most senior Shia spiritual leader on Wednesday joined a chorus of Iraqi politicians and clerics criticizing recent statements by President Donald Trump in which he said U.S. troops should stay in Iraq to keep an eye on neighboring Iran.**

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said Iraq aspires to have "good and balanced relations" with all of its neighbors "based on mutual interests and without intervention in internal affairs."

Iraq "rejects being a launching pad for harming any other country," he said during a meeting with UN Iraq envoy Jeanine Henniss-Plasschaert at the top cleric's base

in Najaf.

Both Iraq's president and prime minister have hit back at Trump's statements to U.S. media this week stating that U.S. troops should stay at a base in Iraq so that America can "watch Iran."

"We spent a fortune on building this incredible base," Trump said. "We might as well keep it. And one of the reasons I want to keep it is because I want to be looking a little bit at Iran because Iran is a real problem." Trump apparently was referring to the Ain al-Asad air base in western Iraq, where he paid a brief visit to U.S. forces in December. The base hosts American troops but belongs to the Iraqi army.

The comments angered Iraqi politicians and factions and further added to concerns in Iraq about America's long-term intentions, particularly after it withdraws its troops from Syria.

Prime Minister Adel Abdel-Mahdi, at his weekly news conference late Tuesday, reminded Trump that there are no U.S. bases in Iraq and said he doesn't accept the idea of Iraq becoming an arena for fighting a neighboring country. He called on Trump to retract his statements.

Iraqi President Barham Saleh said Monday that Trump did not ask for permission to use Iraqi territory to monitor Iran and said the Iraqi constitution forbids the use of Iraq as

a base to threaten the interests or security of neighboring countries.

"Don't overburden Iraq with your own issues," he said.

Curbing foreign military presence has become a hot-button issue in Iraq after parliament elections in May in which blocs linked to anti-terror volunteers made significant gains.

Now, after defeating Daesh terrorists in their last urban bastions, Iraqi politicians and militia leaders are increasingly speaking out against the continued presence of U.S. forces on Iraqi soil.

Trump has said he has no plans to withdraw the 5,200 troops in Iraq, which he says could carry out U.S. airstrikes inside Syria after American troops withdraw from the country.

Sabah al-Saadi, a member of parliament in the bloc led by influential anti-American cleric Moqtada Sadr, has proposed a bill demanding a U.S. pullout.

Trump's latest remarks had made passing such a law "a national duty".

Deputy speaker of parliament Hassan Karim al-Kaabi, also close to Sadr, said Sunday they were a "new provocation", weeks after the U.S. president sparked outrage in Iraq by visiting U.S. troops at Ain al-Asad without meeting a single Iraqi official.

Kurdish MP Sarkawt Shams tweeted that the mission of U.S. troops in Iraq was "to help Iraqi security forces against terrorism, no 'watching' others".

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## Top Iranian Officials: Americans Must Leave Syria

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **Senior Iranian figures said on Wednesday that Syria is a top foreign policy priority and American troops should withdraw, as planned by U.S. President Donald Trump.**

"Whether they want to or not, the Americans must leave Syria," Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said.

"Now 90 percent of Syrian soil is under the control of the government and the rest will soon be freed by the Syrian army," Velayati added during a meeting with Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem here.

President Hassan Rouhani told Muallem that peace in Syria is a priority. "One of the important regional and foreign policy goals of the Islamic Republic is the stability and complete secu-

rity of Syria," he said.

"And establishing normal conditions in Syria and the return of the people of this country to their normal lives."

Muallem was in Tehran for negotiations before the meeting of presidents of Russia, Turkey and Iran in the Russian Black Sea resort town Sochi on Feb. 14 over Syria.

On Tuesday, Iran warned the occupying regime of Israel of a "firm and appropriate" response if it continued attacking targets in Syria.

In a meeting with Muallem, Secretary of Iran's National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said Zionist attacks violated Syria's territorial integrity and were unacceptable.

"If these actions continue, we will activate some calculated measures as a deterrent and as a

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## Syria's Apparent Operation of S-300s Alarms Zionists

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- **An Israeli satellite imaging company claims a number of launchers for S-300 missile defense systems provided to Syria by Russia have been seen in an erected position, indicating that they are now ready to use.**

ImageSat International (iSi) said images show three of the four S-300 launchers belonging to the long-range surface-to-air missile systems are in an upright position in the town of Masyaf in the western Syrian province of Hama.

"Due to the current regional tension and the detected erection of the launchers, it is possible that the mentioned activity indicates an increase of the operational level and alertness," the company said.

It cited specific concern after noticing that only one of the launchers had been camouflaged.

"This situation is rare and raises

question marks about the operational level of the whole battery and specifically of the covered and folded launcher," it noted.

At the request of Damascus, Russia and Syria have maintained close defensive cooperation in battling terrorists in the Arab country.

The cooperation has flown in the face of the occupying regime of Israel's efforts at undermining Syria's defenses, with the regime repeatedly targeting Syrian military positions.

Last September, a Russian Il-20 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down and all the 15 servicemen on board were killed during Zionist airstrikes in the northwestern Syrian province of Latakia.

Moscow held Tel Aviv responsible for the downing and ordered the delivery of the S-300 defense systems to Syria.

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