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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Landmark Military Meet of Iran, Iraq, Syria Against Terrorism & Foreign Troops

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The tripartite military meeting in Damascus amongst the chief of armed forces of Syria, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, the first of its kind, is indeed an important milestone in regional relations of the three important countries of the Resistance Front against terrorism and the unwanted, uninvited and illegal presence of forces of other states.

There is consensus amongst the said countries, in coordination with the other two vital components of the Resistance Front, that is, the Palestinian liberation groups and Lebanon's legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah, of the goal of salvaging the region from the devilish designs of the US and its local agents, whether the Zionists or the mischief-mongering unrepresentative Arab reactionary regimes.

As a matter of fact, terrorism would never have taken roots in West Asia without the creation of the takfiris and others macabre murderers jointly by the US, Britain, Saudi Arabia, and the Zionist regime.

Unfortunately, Turkey was hoodwinked into providing free passage to terrorists of all hue and colour streaming into Syria and Iraq from Europe, and in the process unwittingly contributing to the destabilization and economic-infrastructure destruction of Syrian cities.

Ankara seems to have realized its blunder after suffering the consequences, but is presently obsessed militarily with the Kurds of Syria whose resurgence as autonomous authorities in their own area has caused fears of similar demands by Turkey's huge Kurdish population.

The Turkish government should, however, understand that the presence of its military forces in Idlib is violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and thus any measures against the terrorists ought to be carried out in consultation with the government in Damascus, and definitely not with the US occupation forces which are stationed at Tanf on the borders of Iraq, and will sooner be kicked out by the Resistance Front, if Washington fails to fulfill its promise of withdrawal.

Tanf in southeast Syria is near the Damascus-Baghdad highway and the illegal US military presence there has virtually closed the main border crossing between the two countries, which have naturally sought the advice of their tried and trusted friend Iran in liberating the border areas.

Iran, was represented at the Damascus military meeting by Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, who said in clear words that all outside forces, illegally present in Syria, including the northwestern province of Idlib and east of the River Euphrates, should leave these areas at the earliest.

As is clear by the joint press conference on Monday in the Syrian capital and the communique of the tripartite military meeting, the authorities in Damascus fully agree with the stand of the Islamic Republic and so does the government in Baghdad, which wants the 5,000 odd American troops to leave Iraqi soil.

All three countries are resolute that the fight against terrorism – including economic terrorism – and protection of their national sovereignty and territorial integrity are of paramount importance and no meddling by any outside forces will be tolerated.

In this regard, Iraqi MP Haneen Qaddou has called for holding a joint military drill by Iran, Iraq and Syria to prevent the US from imposing its demands and expanding influence in the region.

According to Iraqi news agency al-Maalomah, he said Iraq's security is intertwined with that of Syria and Iran, and holding the joint military exercise is in the interest of all countries in the region.

Qaddou is not a lone voice in the wilderness. The Iraqi parliament is currently busy discussing proposals from leading members for the expulsion of American troops, especially in view of the fact that the Hashd ash-Sha'bi or the Popular Mobilisation Units (PMU), have made it clear that if the Legislature fails to pass a law, they will be forced to use their anti-terrorism capabilities to oust the US.

This has caused worries in Washington and although the roguish administration of Donald Trump is acting in an intransigent manner, deep down the heart the worries of body bags returning to bereaved family members of the servicemen, has scared the daylights out of the US, which understand that no amount impishness from its stooges, the Zionists and the reactionary Arabs, will dent the resolve of the Resistance Front.

It should be noted that back in December, Baqeri had said in explicit words that despite its mainly peaceful defense doctrine, the Islamic Republic maintains powerful military presence in the region, warning certain regional regimes against inviting the US to the Persian Gulf to hatch plots against Iran.

Officials Outline Problems With FATF, INSTEX



Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaei, right, former Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, second right, and Expediency Council head Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, second left, attend a meeting in this file photo.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaei says the EU needs to guarantee oil purchases from Iran if it wants the Islamic Republic to ratify the bills required by the FATF, the Financial Action Task Force.

Two of the four bills that would join Iran to international conventions against money laundering and funding terrorism and ensure transparency of the Islamic Republic's international financial transactions are stuck at the council, which is the arbiter between the Iranian Parliament and the constitutional oversight Guardian Council. The Expediency Council says it might reach a final decision on the bills by April.

Rezaei, one of the council members who opposes the ratification of the bills, said during a visit to Qom that "Europeans did everything to have the FATF bills ratified by Iran, but they failed to understand the council's logical demand for a guarantee" that would ensure the purchase of Iran's oil by Europe.

Rezaei said Europe has refrained

from purchasing Iran's oil. "This enemy does not understand the language of diplomacy. It does not respect any commitment. So, we must not speak softly to such an enemy."

The FATF has given Tehran yet another four months starting from late February to join or face re-entry into the task force's black list.

Iran was on the FATF blacklist with North Korea until 2016, when the task force temporarily took it off the list.

Asadollah Abbasi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Presidium, also criticized INSTEX, the financial mechanism Europe has established to help maintain limited trade relations.

"INSTEX is a means for Europe to find out about how Iran spends its oil revenue," he said in an interview with Tasnim news agency.

Abbasi said Iran's oil revenue will be deposited into INSTEX to enable Europe to oversee and control Iran's income. "INSTEX is not a good system for sending Iran's money to Europe to import food and medicine."

Chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh also said INSTEX does not meet all of Iran's expectations.

"Many European countries have still not joined INSTEX. Only Germany, France and UK are following the implementation of INSTEX," he told Mehr news agency.

Even those three countries, he said, have shown during the nuclear negotiations with Iran that they maintain "special relations with America."

Germany, France and Britain launched Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) in January to purportedly facilitate business between Europe and Iran in the face of tough U.S. economic sanctions.

According to Iran's Central Bank governor in an interview with the official news agency IRNA, a mechanism similar to the EU's INSTEX trade channel, to be called the Special Trade and Finance Institute (STFI), will be registered in Tehran possibly in April after the Iranian New Year holidays.

Border Guard Martyred in Clash With Armed Bandits

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – An Iranian border guard was martyred in a fight with armed bandits near the western border with Iraq, local media reported on Monday.

Iran's armed forces have been stepping up their presence along its borders to prevent smuggling and terrorist infiltration.

"Last night around 9 p.m., the border guards who were trying to stop armed smugglers entering the country had a fight with armed bandits," Tasnim news agency quoted Kiumars Sheikhi, commander of the border guards in Kermanshah province as saying.

He said a member of the Baneh county border patrol had been martyred in the fight.

Sheikhi said members of the armed group were planning a sabotage operation in Iran, but did not give details or say whether they were connected to terrorist groups.

In July, terrorists martyred 10 members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in an attack on a post on the Iraqi border.

A terrorist linked to an Al-Qaeda-linked group martyred 27 IRGC members last month in a southeastern

region.

On Monday, Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu was quoted as saying that Turkey and Iran had carried out a joint operation against militants from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"We started carrying out an operation with Iran against the PKK on our eastern border this morning (and) will announce the result," news agency Anadolu quoted Soylu as saying. State broadcaster TRT Haber also cited him commenting on the operation.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, dismissed the report, saying Iranian troops were not involved in the operation.

"The Turkish army carried out an operation on its eastern border against the PKK group this morning. But the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are not involved in the operation," an informed sourced at the General Staff told Fars news agency.

"At the same time, the source said that the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will strongly deal with any group seeking to create insecurity in our country," Fars added.

Young Experts Key to Iran's Progress: Minister

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami has highlighted the role of young Iranian experts in the progress of the country's defense industry and said the Islamic Republic is determined to rely on them to boost the industry.

"The youths ... have always

played an effective role in creating change and evolution in Islamic Iran," Hatami said.

That is why Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in "the second phase of the revolution" statement has underlined believing in the youth.

The defense minister went on

to say that in his ministry, tapping the valuable capacities of the young workforce has always been on the agenda.

Last month, Ayatollah Khamenei issued a statement, outlining the achievements of the Islamic Revolution in the past four decades and sketching out the "second phase of the

The Holy Qur'an

But when He delivers them, lo! they are unjustly rebellious in the earth. O men! your rebellion is against your own souls-- provision (only) of this world's life -- then to Us shall be your return, so We will inform you of what you did.

The Holy Qur'an (10.23)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:12
Evening (Maghreb)	18:33
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:47
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:10

Official Blasts West's Muted Response to Carnage

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – An Iranian official Monday deplored the international community's muted response to a recent terrorist attack on Muslims in New Zealand, saying the West is pushing for the promotion of Islamophobia.

In an address to a meeting on the threat of terrorism held here, Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution Saeed Reza Ameli said the attack was a massacre that resulted from what Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has described as institutionalized secularism in the West.

He said it was the West that spawned the Daesh terrorist group, adding notorious terrorists have now emerged in the U.S. and Europe.

Ameli also denounced the international community's refusal to condemn the terrorist attack in New Zealand, saying the West's Islamophobia campaign has historical and economic roots.

"Islamophobia has its roots in the European and American economy, as they created Islamophobia for the sake of the arms trade market so that they could sell arms to a country like Saudi Arabia," the cleric added.

A gunman killed 50 people and wounded more than 40 during Friday prayers at two New Zealand mosques in the country's worst ever mass shooting.

The assailant livestreamed the attack on one mosque in the city of Christchurch on Facebook, mirroring the carnage played out in video games, after publishing a "manifesto" in which he denounced immigrants, calling them "invaders".

revolution".

In the statement released on February 13 on the occasion of the beginning of the fifth decade of the Islamic Revolution, the Leader thanked Iranians for their magnificent presence in the demonstrations held to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the revolution.