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### In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

## Canada-Saudi Row: The Pot and the Kettle Calling Each other Black

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*The diplomatic row between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Canada – currently estranged from the US – and Washington's pet poodle Saudi Arabia, which is trying to act like a bulldog after having tasted blood in neighbouring Yemen, seems to have spiraled out of control, with the two exchanging the choicest barbs.*

*It appears like a repeat of Riyadh's last year's feud with Doha, and the vain bid to undermine the economy of the emirate of Qatar.*

*Following the Canadian government's criticism of the arrest of jailed Saudi activist, Raif Badawi's sister, Samar Badawi, earlier this month, the Wahhabi regime responded with a severe backlash that saw expulsion of the Canadian ambassador, suspension of flights to Canada, recalling of thousands of Saudi students from high schools and universities in Canada, and freezing of trade and investment in Canada.*

*Although Canada cannot be exonerated in view of its dirty habit of hitherto acting like a servant of the US and poking its nose in the affairs of other nations, especially Muslim states, this time because of Donald Trump's snobbish attitude toward Trudeau and his lust for the billions of petro-dollars of Saudi Arabia, the government of Canada finds itself at the receiving end.*

*Ottawa stands to lose financially from the Saudi measures, which is a clear indication from Riyadh that other countries should close their eyes to its crimes against humanity, whether the repression of people living under its rule or the bloodbath in Yemen, where almost on a daily basis the warplanes of the Arab coalition grind the people into dust.*

*Of course, Canada is no angel either with its shabby human rights record and its hypocrisy in turning a blind eye to the massacre in Yemen, coupled with its total indifference to the plight of the Shi'a Muslim majority of the Arabian Peninsula's eastern oil-rich region.*

*Ottawa's criticism of Riyadh for the arrest of a few women activists, whose relations, including Badawi's wife Ensaf Haidar, are based in Canada, was definitely not a purely human rights measure, but a politically motivated one.*

*According to analysts, underlying Riyadh's unusually very hostile reaction to Ottawa to liquidate its Canadian equities, bonds and cash holdings to the tune of around \$100 billion, could be instructions from Trump to punish Trudeau.*

*Another possible reason is the rivalry between the two countries for having the maximum share of the US oil market, in view of the fact the US is the world's second largest importer of crude oil while the US military is the world's largest oil consumer.*

*The Saudis have not forgotten that despite their close ties to the US they were displaced by the Canadians in the late 1990s as the top exporter of crude oil to the US. Since then the chasm has widened between Riyadh and Ottawa mainly because of the rapid growth of Canadian oil imports — which now account for more than half of all US crude imports, while US imports of Saudi crude have dropped to 8.5 percent.*

*This explains why the Saudis have targeted the Canadian economy at this juncture. It seems that Riyadh backed by Trump, wants nothing more than the political capitulation of Canada, after having miserably failed in the war in Yemen, and earlier on the battlefields of Syria and Iraq — because of the Islamic Republic of Iran's timely help to the said two countries in defeating US-Zionist-Saudi backed terrorism.*

*Canada's total exports to Saudi Arabia, now under threat, total on average \$1.45 billion annually.*

*Interestingly, it is not the first time that Saudi diplomatic attacks have been motivated by fossil-fuel markets. As a matter of fact, Riyadh's ongoing dispute with Doha was caused by Qatar's lifting of a moratorium on developing the world's largest natural gas field it shares in the Persian Gulf with Iran and its normalization of diplomatic ties with the Islamic Republic in light of their shared interests in the gas field.*

*Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has a history of using bizarre means to damage the economies of its rivals. Now, with Saudi foreign cash reserves still very low and warnings that the regime, which is involved in an unwinnable war in Yemen, could face bankruptcy in less than two years, even small fluctuations in the oil market — along with growing domestic dissent — threaten to derail the regime or loosen the grip of the ruling Najdi family.*

*Canada has possibly reminded Saudi Arabia of its weaknesses, both economic or political, at a time when the spurious entity that was created in 1932 by Britain for the desert brigand of Najd, Abdul-Aziz Aal-e Saud, finds itself facing an uncomfortable and perhaps unforgiving future.*

# Iran Christians Slam U.S. Meddling



*Iranian Christians stand in line at a church to cast their votes during elections for the parliament and Assembly of Experts in Tehran February 26, 2016.*

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Assyro-Chaldean churches have censured U.S. officials' "interventionist" claims about the situation of religious minorities in the Islamic Republic, calling on Washington to be concerned about its own poor human rights record at home and abroad instead of shedding "crocodile tears" for others.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the churches rejected U.S. accusations of rights violations against religious minorities in Iran, saying all divine religions in the country have their own representatives at the Iranian parliament (Majlis), who enjoy equal rights with fellow lawmakers.

Within the Islamic establishment, the statement said, the churches feel free to hold religious ceremonies and cultural-sports festivals while preserving the Assyrian language. It added that a special budget has been allocated to Iranian religious communities.

These are "just examples of the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's holy establishment to the issue of divine religions and

their followers and to protecting their moral and social values," the statement read.

The "interventionist comments" by American statesmen "through official platforms and cyberspace, especially Twitter, about violations of religious minorities' rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran are no more than shedding crocodile tears," the statement added.

The Assyro-Chaldean churches further called on U.S. officials to focus on their own domestic issues and engage in "effective and constructive relations with all governments" instead of interfering in their internal affairs.

They also condemned Washington's support for the warmongering regimes of Zionists and Saudi Arabia, calling on the U.S. to stop supporting the bloody wars in Syria and Yemen.

They further noted that Iranian religious minorities need no "guardian" in their homeland and are able to defend their rights through their representatives at the parliament and related government institutions.

The official religion of Iran is Shia Islam under the Constitution. The Islamic Republic recognizes Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian religious minorities, among others.

In late July, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo took to Twitter to attack Iran's Islamic establishment again, claiming religious minorities, including Jews, Christians and Sunni Muslims, "live in fear" at home.

The department under Pompeo's watch also released its annual "religious freedom report" in late May, in which it targeted Iran besides Washington's other adversaries, including Russia and China.

And also, Iran's Judiciary Chief Sadeq Amoli Larijani has blasted the West, specially the U.S., for undermining human rights across the world and supporting terrorist groups.

"We condemn the Western states for pretending to be supporters of human rights, but they really back terrorist groups," Amoli Larijani said.

## Iran Dismisses Caspian Comments by Phony Russian Negotiator

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson has denied as invalid the comments by Rajab Safarov about Iran's share of the Caspian Sea, saying no such person has ever been involved in the team of Russian negotiators.

Asked about a recent report from a Persian-language foreign-based media outlet which has referred to Rajab Safarov as a member of Russia's team of experts involved in the Caspian negotiations in Kazakhstan, Qassemi said, "Records show that he (Safarov) has been never a negotiator in the Russian delegation negotiating with the Iranian delegation."

"No doubt, the comments and allegations by the above-mentioned person have basically no credibility," Qassemi added.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is scheduled to address Iran's Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on the Caspian Sea Legal Regime on August 21.

Speaking Iran's media, spokesman of Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Ali Najafi Khoshroudi said that due to the sensitivities caused by Caspian Sea issue, FM Zarif has been invited to elaborate it for the MPs.

Presidents of five Caspian Sea littoral states signed on Sunday the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea; a landmark rule that is expected to expand good-neighborly relations among parties including Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Kazakhstan.

## Pakistani PM to Visit Iran on First Foreign Visit: Report

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan's prime minister-in-waiting Imran Khan is going to visit Tehran following his swearing-in ceremony, which is to be held later this month.

On his first trip abroad following his party's victory in the July 25 general elections, Imran Khan will also visit Saudi Arabia.

Imran Khan, the leader of the PTI party, will take the oath of office on August 18, Pakistan's Times of Islamabad reported.

Iran invited Imran Khan for a visit on August 4, when Iran's

ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost met him to offer congratulations on his victory.

Meanwhile, the new Pakistan ambassador in Tehran Rafat Masood on Tuesday praised the deepening friendship and ties between Tehran and Islamabad, stressing that the two countries are witnessing a new positive development in bilateral relations.


Rafat Masood in a ceremony held in her residence for marking the 72nd anniversary of Pakistan Independence Day on August 14,

said that her appointment as the first woman ambassador to Iran was a positive event in deepening the friendly ties and relations between the two countries.

Massod emphasized the importance and constructive role of Pakistani citizens based in Iran in promoting the friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran and stressed the important role of women, youth and students in this regard.

Urging the Pakistani women and youth to depict a right image of

**The Holy Qur'an**



*And an announcement from Allah and His Apostle to the people on the day of the greater pilgrimage that Allah and His Apostle are free from liability to the idolaters; therefore if you repent, it will be better for you, and if you turn back, then know that you will not weaken Allah; and announce painful punishment to those who disbelieve.*

**The Holy Qur'an (9.3)**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:09
Evening (Maghreb)	20:13
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:51
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:23

## Zarif Congratulates Lebanon on Anniversary of 33-Day War Victory

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday congratulated Lebanon on the 12th anniversary of the Arab country's victory in a war waged by the Zionist regime in 2006.

The Iranian top diplomat offered his congratulations to the Lebanese nation and government in two separate messages to his Lebanese counterpart Gebran Bassil and Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah.

12 years ago, Israel and Hezbollah last fought a war where around 165 Zionists, including 119 troopers, and 1,200 Lebanese died during Israel's 33-day war on Lebanon, which lasted from July 12 to August 14, 2006.

According to the 629-page Winoograd Report by the Zionist regime, Hezbollah fighters involved in defending Lebanon against the Zionist war defeated the enemy and Tel Aviv was compelled to withdraw without having achieved any of its objectives.

The defeat suffered by Zionist forces in the war with Lebanon, along with two similar defeats in its wars with the besieged Gaza Strip, have been seen by analysts to have effectively shattered the myth of invincibility of the their army.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which brokered a ceasefire in the 2006 war, calls on Zionists to respect Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Pakistan to Iranian nation, the new Pakistan ambassador in Tehran blasted the foreign media for the untrue propaganda against the real face of her country, adding, 'People of Iran are not familiar with real Pakistan'.

Masood said that democracy was underway in her country and remarked, 'These days coincide with the designation of a new government in Pakistan for the next 5 year and a new Pakistan is the result of the growth and maturity of democracy.'