

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,  
Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

### In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

## Puppeteers Behind the Latest Terrorist Blasts

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*On August 14 two international criminals had a long distance telephone talk. The next day two terrorist attacks took place in two different countries but against persons sharing more or less the same set of religious beliefs.*

*As a result, more innocent lives were lost, with blood flowing like water in Kabul's Dasht-e Barchi neighbourhood and Hodeidah's Duraihami district, amidst wails of lamentations amongst survivors in the two places and, of course, peals of laughter in Washington and Riyadh.*

*If the casualty toll at the school for elite Hazara students in the Afghan capital surged to 50 dead and scores other others injured, the victims of the airstrike in the densely populated area of the besieged Yemeni port city of mostly Zaydi Muslims were around 30 men, women, and children dead and dozens of others wounded.*

*In Afghanistan it was the Daesh terrorists – recently relocated by the US from Syria and Iraq – who unabashedly admitted their crime against humanity, while in Yemen it was the US-armed Saudi-Emirati coalition of invaders which sadistically said it will continue to bomb the Arab world's most impoverished people for refusing to yield to the American-Zionist yoke.*

*It was not disclosed if the principal plotters of both the bloody incidents, that is, the gangster Mike Pompeo and the overgrown imp MBS (Mohamed bin Salman) – notorious for their intense hatred of devotees of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, whether Sunni or Shi'a Muslims – had exchanged congratulatory cables the day after their telephone talk that discussed destabilizing measures in various countries, primarily directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose influence in the region and beyond has scared the daylights out of the Yankees, the Wahhabis and the Zionists.*

*Now, coming to the dastardly terrorist attack in Kabul, it is a matter of deep regret, as voiced by members of the Hazara community, the government of Afghanistan, whose hands are tied by the US occupation forces, has left them unprotected in the face of growing target killings by the Daesh, which with the help of Americans seems to have infiltrated the security apparatus itself.*

*In the words of a 19-year old survivor, Soraya Samar, who addressed the mourners, "there is no security for us. Every time an incident takes place, we ask for more security, but nothing comes. The government has done nothing to protect us since Deh Mazang."*

*She was referring to the peaceful protest staged by Hazara people two years ago at a traffic circle in Kabul, where terrorists had triggered bomb blasts to martyr almost a hundred men, women, and children, thereby putting a big question mark on the efficiency of the Afghan security forces.*

*Wednesday's attack on the Mowoud Learning Centre was another assault on the educational and professional aspirations of the Hazara Shi'a Muslims. It is worth noting that the said Centre has built an exceptional record, with large numbers of its students scoring high marks on national college entrance exams.*

*In view of this state of lawlessness in Afghanistan, coupled with the unholy trinity's (US-Saudi-Israel) intense hatred of Muslims, especially the followers of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, it is time for people to wake up from slumber and identify the archenemies of Islam.*

*Unless the masses in Afghanistan, as well as in other lands in the crosshairs of the Great Satan, marshal efforts for forming popular mobilization units, in order to protect the life, property, faith, honour, and national dignity, they will continue to be viewed as sitting ducks by the terrorists.*

*It should be recalled that earlier this month, following the last US-Saudi hatched terrorist attack on Afghan Shi'a Muslims, Kayhan International had said in its Viewpoint Column: "Friday's killing of worshippers in the mosque in Gardez will not be the last unmanly act of the Takfiri terrorists, unless, of course, the Afghan authorities coordinate views with neighbouring states, especially the tried and trusted security apparatus of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its experience in fighting terrorism by mobilizing the local people."*

# U.S. Sanctions on Iran Hit Iraqi Tourism



An Iranian woman is seen at the old city of Najaf, August 9, 2018.

NAJAF, Iraq (Dispatches) -- With hotels facing mass cancellations, Iraqis in the holy city of Najaf are being hit hard by U.S. sanctions on neighboring Iran, which have forced cash-strapped pilgrims to stay home.

At the city's edge, surrounded by mosaic-covered walls and topped by a golden dome, sits the shrine of Imam Ali (AS), son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and the first Imam of Shia Muslims.

The shrine draws a million and a half pilgrims to Najaf each year, in addition to those who travel to the holy city for the huge annual Arbæen commemoration.

The vast majority hail from neighboring Iran, whose population is overwhelmingly Shiite.

"More than 85 percent are Iranians," Saeb Abu Ghoneim, the president of the hoteliers' union in the city, told Agence France-Presse.

Signs throughout the city, 150 kilometers south of Baghdad, are translated into Farsi.

Iran's national language can be heard across Najaf, spoken by women in full-length black veils and by male pilgrims, walking in the shade to avoid the searing sunlight.

But just days after Washington this month reimposed sanctions on Iran, following U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of a landmark 2015 nuclear accord with Tehran, the impact is already being felt in Najaf.

The Iranian rial has been severely hit by internal economic woes and the U.S. measures, losing around half of its value against the dollar since April.

Farzad, an Iranian who did manage to fund his trip to Najaf, said that the drop in pilgrim numbers was a direct result of the currency

crisis.

"It's because the rial is worth nothing," he said, with a travel company badge attached to a ribbon around his neck in the colors of the Iranian flag.

The first round of sanctions against Iran covers financial transactions and imports of raw materials. Further measures due to hit in November will affect Iran's central bank, and the country's vital hydrocarbon industry.

At the start of the year the dollar exchange rate was 42,900 rials. It has since hit nearly 120,000 rials on the black market.

In order to get the \$40 needed for a visa to Iraq, Khodabandeh Mehrban said that he had to turn to the black market.

"Now the market fluctuates and it's not supported by the government, so there are fewer Iranian

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## Iranian Officials Join Campaign for Transparency

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Several Iranian officials have responded to the social media campaign #Where\_Is\_Your\_Child, which aims to promote transparency amid allegations that the children of some officials are using special privileges.

The campaign is challenging officials to disclose the place of residence, education and job status of their children.

The campaign was launched after photos of the lavish wedding ceremony of the son of an Iranian ambassador went viral.

In recent months, Iranian social media users have become more vociferous in criticizing the extravagant life style of some officials.

Although the phenomenon is not anything new, economic hardships amid rising unemployment under the current administration have prompted some citizens to speak out.

People, particularly the army of the unemployed, are taking to social media to criticize the appointment of relatives of some officials to sensitive governmental positions.

The trigger was statements by Hamidreza Aref, an Iranian businessman who is a son of former vice president and current lawmaker Muhammad Reza Aref,

made during an interview on state television about his business achievements.

In the interview, he talked about his flourishing business when his father was a minister and the vice president. Asked what constituted his success, Aref stated that the "good genes" he inherited from his parents were the key to his success.

Those statements touched off a wave of outcry and ridicule among many Iranians, including those with strong educational background who were still hunting for a decent job.

Some of the users directed their criticism at a young nephew of Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi who was appointed as deputy governor of Iran's Central Bank only to be sacked recently amid a forex market crisis.

So far, a handful of Iranian officials have joined the campaign, including Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif who has stated that all his children are living in Iran.

Zarif had to state that his son is a market management consultant and his daughter a part-time interior designer. His son-in-law is managing a private sector firm and his daughter-in-law is a part-time university lecturer.

## Ministry Protests to Georgia Over Treatment of Iranians

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi says Iran has lodged a strong protest with Georgia over the problems which some Iranian passengers have reportedly experienced at the Tbilisi airport.

Qasemi's remarks came after it was emerged that several Iranian women had been forced by Georgian police to remove their Is-

lamic headscarves during security checks on flight from Tbilisi to Isfahan.

"After the report was corroborated ... the Iranian embassy in Tbilisi expressed its strong protest to the Georgian Foreign Ministry and Tbilisi Airport security police," said Qasemi.

He said Iran's embassy in Tbilisi continues to follow up the issue

and that the Georgian ambassador to Tehran had been asked for explanation.

"Relevant Georgian authorities have also been asked to pursue the matter and prevent Iranian passengers from being subjected to such treatments again," he said.

Qasemi said he hoped "security police at Tbilisi will exercise utmost care with regard to the

**The Holy Qur'an**

سورة التوبة

So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them; surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

**The Holy Qur'an (9.5)**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:08
Evening (Maghreb)	20:10
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:54
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:25

## FM Zarif: U.S. Isolated After Leaving JCPOA

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif says the United States isolated itself when it left the nuclear deal with Iran.

"Today the U.S.' closest allies, apart from a few of our neighbors, are no longer aligned with Washington," said Zarif during a televised interview.

He added that Washington's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has perfectly manifested the country's isolation on the global stage.

"Basically the entire goal is to psychologically affect our nation and to affect the psychological vibe of our trade partners across the globe," the Iranian foreign minister stated, stressing that "the world is not ready to follow the U.S."

President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear agreement in May, and said that he planned to reinstate nuclear sanctions on Iran and impose "the highest level" of economic bans on the Islamic Republic.

Zarif noted that the EU has so far lived up to its commitments, but they have to "move beyond words."

"The Europeans say the JCPOA is a security achievement for them. Well, you ought to pay for your security. No one finds security without investment," he added.

necessity of respecting Muslim women's privacy and prevent such incidents from happening again."

This is not the first time Iran is criticizing Georgia over the Tbilisi airport's mistreatment of Iranian women. Last year, an Iranian woman was forced by Tbilisi airport security forces to remove her hijab.