

Bolton, Netanyahu Discuss Iran

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The occupying regime of Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump's national security adviser met here Monday and called on European nations to do more to pressure Iran.

John Bolton arrived in Occupied Palestine Sunday for three days of talks expected to focus mainly on Iran and its presence in Syria. Netanyahu urged all countries to "follow America's lead and ratchet up the pressure on Iran."

Kayhan International

Iran Ties a Priority for Pakistan: Minister

TEHRAN (Fars) -- Pakistan's newly-appointed Information and Broadcasting Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Monday underlined that his country will prioritize expansion of relations with Iran in all fields.

"Expansion of relations with Iran will be the government's foreign policy priority," Chaudhry, also spokesman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, told Fars news agency. He underscored the new government's plans for serious measures to consolidate ties with Tehran. "We consider Iran as a good role model for Pakistan in administration of the country and we will take steps to this end."

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Eid al-Adha Thoughts – The Forgotten Fundamental Principle of Hajj

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"[This is] an announcement from Allah and His Prophet to all the people on the day of the Greater Hajj: that Allah and His Prophet repudiate the polytheists." (Holy Qur'an 9:3)

As is clear the repudiation of the polytheists or disavowal of disbelievers (*bar'at min-al-mushrikeen*) is a commandment of God Almighty and His Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), to be observed during the Hajj pilgrimage.

On revelation of this and related ayahs of Surah Towba when the Prophet had sent one of his senior companions – a former idolater – to proclaim the Divine Rules of Hajj to the neo Muslim or still pagan Arabs of Mecca, Archangel Gabriel descended with a fresh order from the Lord Most High, saying these ayahs pertaining to the repudiation of the polytheists should be recited at the holy Ka'ba either by the Prophet himself or someone similar to him – that is, a pure and pristine monotheist who had never bowed to idols.

All exegetes of the Holy Qur'an, narrators of hadith and chroniclers of history – whether Sunni or Shi'a – agree that the Seal of Messengers asked his dear cousin and son-in-law Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), to take charge of the mission without delay. The Commander of the Faithful promptly set off, overtook the emissary, took charge of the mission as "*Ameer al-Haaj*," reached Mecca and fearlessly proclaimed these ayahs on disavowal of disbelievers at the Holy Ka'ba.

Alas, following the Prophet's departure from the mortal world when a group of neo Muslims – or more properly former idolaters – usurped political power of the Islamic state in violation of God's commandments and the explicit instructions of the Prophet on Imam Ali's (AS) Divinely-Designated right of leadership of the Ummah, they decided to ignore this fundamental declaration of Surah Towba.

Consequently, the second, third and subsequent generations of Arab Muslims, whose ancestors were polytheists, pagans, heathens, idolaters and atheists, also closed their eyes to God's commandment in the holy Qur'an for Hajj pilgrims to disavow the disbelievers during the annual pilgrimage – perhaps on the assumption that no non-Muslim comes to Mecca and thus there is no need of these ayahs.

A shortsighted of blasphemous decision indeed, when in a few centuries we see the Crusaders from Europe occupying Syria and Palestine, along with Islam's first qibla, Bayt al-Moqaddas,

Though a united Muslim force of Kurds, Turks, Iranians, and Arabs, liberated Bayt al-Moqaddas in 1187 after 88 years of Crusader occupation, and when it was again occupied, the Ayyubids used the elite Khwaremian brigades in 1244 to liberate Islam's 3rd holiest city (the Crusades finally ending in 1291), Muslims coming to Mecca from various parts of Islamic World stretching from Spain in west to the borders of China in the east, seemed to have completely forgotten the Divine Commandment to repudiate disbelievers.

Even in the colonial era, this fundamental message of Hajj, enshrined in Surah Towba, was ignored, the result being Britain's creation of the spurious entity Saudi Arabia in 1932 as a gift to its salaried servant, the desert brigand from Najd, Abdul-Aziz Aal-e Saud, seven years after his heretical Wahhabi hordes had seized Hijaz, the Land of Divine Revelation by unleashing rivers of blood in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, the port city of Jeddah and the hill resort of Ta'ef.

This meant no mention at all of "disavowal of disbelievers", since Islam's most sacred cities were now under control of the Zionist-loving slaves of western imperialism, the Saudi disbelievers, who in order to fool the Ummah and justify their rule, masqueraded as Muslims.

It was only in 1980 that the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Seyyed Ruhollah Khomeini (RA) – a direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) through his 7th Infallible Heir, Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS) – revived this basic principle of the Hajj, with instructions to Iranian pilgrims to preach Islamic unity during the rituals, while proclaiming in an organized manner the disavowal of disbelievers, especially the archenemies of the Ummah (US and the Zionist entity).

Many Muslims welcomed this, but those who had usurped control of the Land of Divine Revelation, were firmly sitting in the lap of the US and Britain, and were direct descendants of either the pagan Arabs or the Israelite tribes of Arabia.

The seditious Saudis, not only opposed the ceremony of "*bara'at min al-mushrikeen*" but used batons and firearms to shed by blood of the Guests of God in the most inviolable of all places – beginning with the 400 Iranians massacred by the Aal-e Saud in 1987 and reaching climax with stampede in Mena in 2016 that resulted in the death of at least 7,000 pilgrims, including around 500 Iranians.

Well on the Day of Arafah and on the eve of Eid al-Adha, the intention is not to spoil the mood of those who without any legal authority, claim to be Custodians of Two Holiest Shrines, while openly dallying with the Zionists and unabashedly shedding Muslim blood in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, etc.

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Ayatollah Khamenei's Hajj Message: U.S. Policy Is to Stoke Wars, Massacre Muslims



Ayatollah Khamenei issued a message to Hajj pilgrims who began marking the climax of the annual event in Mecca on Monday, Aug. 20, 2018.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Monday U.S. policy is to stoke wars among Muslims, urging unity in his message to Hajj pilgrims who began marking the climax of the annual event Monday.

"Look at the behavior of the arrogant and criminal U.S. today. Its main policy against Islam and Muslims is to stoke wars. Its desire and vicious effort is that Muslims massacre each other," the Leader said.

The U.S. policy, Ayatollah Khamenei said, is "to pit some oppressors against the oppressed, support the oppressors and have them ruthlessly crush the oppressed and always stir up the flames of this atrocious sedition."

"Muslims should be aware and nullify this satanic policy. Hajj prepares the ground for this awareness, and this represents the philosophy of disavowal of pagans and arrogant powers during Hajj."

On Monday, more than two million people from around the world began ascending Mount Arafat for the pinnacle of the annual Hajj.

The ritual marks a sea of worshipers scaling the rocky hill southeast of the holy city of Mecca for a day of prayers and reflection where Muslims believe Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon Him) delivered his final sermon.

"Hajj, in this specific place and time frame - as always and throughout years - calls Muslims with an eloquent language and cogent logic to solidarity and

unity," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"And this is the opposite of what the enemies of Islam want, those who have all the time incited, and especially are now inciting, Muslims to square up against each other," the Leader added.

Hajj is one of the main branches of faith in Islam which every Muslim is required to complete at least once in their lifetime if they are healthy enough and have the means to do so.

Ayatollah Khamenei said an "important point that makes any thoughtful individual curious and sensitive is the designation of a permanent place for meeting for all people and generations throughout all years during a specific period of time."

"This unity of time and place is one

of the main secrets of Hajj," the Leader said.

"This is the mystery of Islamic unity and the symbol of Islam's nation-building which must be under the protection of God's House. God's House belongs to all - 'equal are the resident therein and one from outside'," he said, citing a part of Surah al-Hajj of the Holy Qur'an.

During Hajj, pilgrims retrace the steps of Prophet Muhammad's last pilgrimage before his passing in 632 CE.

They wear the same - two towels wrapped at the waist and shoulders for men, and a simple garment not covering the face for women. The clothes symbolize equality among all Muslims as they come to face God on the holiest pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage includes various rites, every single part of which "represents a link of the chain of spirituality and soul elevation for a pilgrim who knows the value of this opportunity and takes advantage of it for purifying themselves and stocking up for the rest of their lives," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"Remembrance of God represents the spirit of Hajj," the Leader said, calling on pilgrims to revive and gratify their hearts with "this rain of blessings" and deepen their trust in Allah "who is the source of power, glory, justice, and beauties."

"We will overcome the enemy's ploy in this manner," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei also called on the pilgrims not to forget praying "for the Islamic Ummah, the oppressed people in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Bahrain, Libya, Pakistan, Kashmir and Myanmar and other parts of the world and ask Allah to cut the hands of the U.S. and other arrogant powers, and their supporters."

Europe Slow in Trying to Save JCPOA: Iran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran said Monday that Europe should accelerate its efforts to salvage a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and major powers that U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned in May, as French oil group Total formally pulled out a major gas project.

Efforts by the remaining signatories – EU members Britain, France and Germany plus China and Russia – to avoid its collapse are struggling as Washington has said any firms dealing with Teheran will be barred from doing business in the United States.

"Europeans and other signatories of the deal have been trying to save the deal ... but the process has been slow. It should be accelerated," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said. "Iran relies mainly on its own capabilities to overcome America's new sanctions," he told a news confer-

ence here.

European states have been scrambling to ensure Iran gets enough economic benefits to persuade it to stay in the deal, which Trump said was "deeply flawed." Washington imposed new sanctions on Iran in August, targeting its trade in gold and other precious metals, purchases of U.S. dollars and its car industry.

The European powers, China and Russia say they will do more to encourage their businesses to remain engaged with Iran. But the threat of U.S. sanctions has prompted many major companies to pull out of Iran.

Carmakers PSA, Renault and Daimler are also among those to suspend or drop plans to invest in Iran along with Deutsche Bahn and Deutsche Telekom

Working to maintain financial channels with Tehran and facilitate

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Gunfire Outside U.S. Embassy in Ankara

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Amid tense relations between Ankara and Washington, several gunshots were fired Monday from a vehicle at the U.S. Embassy in the Turkish capital, causing no casualties.

The early morning attack coincided with a deepening row between the two countries over the trial of a U.S. pastor in Turkey.

An unidentified assailant or assailants fired six bullets at an embassy security gate from a passing white vehicle around 530 a.m. local time, three bullets hitting an iron door and a window, the Ankara governor's office said in a statement.

The embassy is closed this week for a public holiday to mark the Islamic Eid al-Adha festival.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman condemned the attack on Twitter and said the in-

cident is being investigated. "This is a clear attempt to create chaos," spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said. "Turkey is a safe country and all foreign missions are under the guarantee of the laws."

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara and the consulate in Istanbul have in the past been the targets of attacks by militants and have faced numerous security threats.

Turkey has lodged a complaint against additional US duties on steel and aluminum at the World Trade Organization, the international trade court said Monday.

U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this month announced on Twitter that he had doubled steel and aluminum tariffs on Turkey amid a row over an American pastor held for two years on terror charges.

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